

YNP@Work

A Daily Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Wednesday, September 7, 2011

AN INTRODUCTION

As part of an effort to improve information sharing between NPS employees here in the park, we've decided to start a daily newsletter.

Our plan is to send it out as a MS Word document attachment by email by 9 o'clock each weekday morning, except holidays.

Below are some subject headings which we think cover subjects you may find helpful. Items may be repeated for several days in a row, to make sure they are here for you to read on the days you consult this newsletter.

This newsletter is intended to compliment, and not replace, other means of communications like Squad Notes and the Gardiner Community Newsletter.

Above all, this is your newsletter. It depends upon you sending in items to share with other employees.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A reminder: after the holiday weekend hiatus, 30-minute delays are possible in connection with the construction of the new Lamar River Bridge.

All services at Roosevelt have concluded for the season.

Canyon Campground is closed for the season.

The operating hours for the Canyon Visitor Education Center are now 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. daily.

ACTING ASSIGNMENTS / OUT OF THE OFFICE

Supt. Dan Wenk will be out of the office Thursday afternoon and Friday.

Deputy Supt. Steve Iobst is out of the office until Thursday, September 8.

CALENDAR ITEMS

No entries today.

IN THE NEWS**Postal Service plans Yellowstone geothermal spring stamp**

By KELSEY DAYTON Casper Star-Tribune staff writer | Posted: Tuesday, September 6, 2011 10:00 pm



Every time Jim Wark is near Yellowstone National Park, he can't resist flying over the Grand Prismatic Spring.

"It's the color," he said. "It's such a graphic image."

Wark, who lives in Pueblo, Colo., doesn't just fly over the spring, he also takes pictures.

And now one of the pictures Wark took of the iconic feature in the park will be immortalized on a postage stamp.

The Earthscapes stamp series, set for release in 2012, features 15 images of urban, agriculture and natural scenes captured either from an airplane or a satellite -- offering people a chance to see the world in a different way.

Of the 15 pictures chosen, five are Wark's.

Wark served four years in the Navy as a pilot before going to work for a steel plant. When he retired in 1990 he bought a small airplane to use to camp in Alaska. While on trips he started taking pictures from his plane and launched a new career providing stock aerial images for books, magazines and other publications.

The U.S. Postal Service saw his images on his website, he said.

To shoot the Grand Prismatic Spring, Wark observed the park's requested altitude restriction of 2,000 feet. He used a long lense on his camera to get an up-close image, he said. The picture chosen by the postal service was actually taken in 1992.

According to the National Park Service's website for Yellowstone, the spring is 370 feet wide and more than 121 feet deep.

The spring is geothermal with temperatures reaching up to 190 degrees in the center, a Postal Service media release said.

Micro-organisms along the edges give the pool the vibrant colors that have made it famous.

Wark's five images chosen for the series mark the first time his work has been used on stamps. In addition to the Yellowstone image, the Postal Service chose Wark's pictures of a skyscraper, barge, butte and railroad cars.

The Postal Service plans to release the Grand Prismatic Spring stamp in October 2012.

MOST RECENT PARK NEWS RELEASE**FIRE UPDATE - Heart Complex: September 6, 2011 – 2:00 p.m.**

The Point Fire on the eastern shore of Yellowstone Lake increased to 1,100 acres over Labor Day weekend, driven by steady winds and increasingly drier weather conditions.

The fire is burning in downed and dead logs with single and group tree torching behavior increasing in the afternoons. As a precautionary measure, the Thorofare Trail has been closed from the Nine Mile Trailhead to one mile south of the fire area. Smoke will likely be visible around the eastern edge of the lake and on portions of the East Entrance road.

Five lightning caused wildland fires, managed as the Heart Complex, continue to burn in the backcountry of Yellowstone National Park.

The Gibbon Fire, burning three miles southeast of Madison Junction, has seen little new fire activity and remains estimated at 16-18 acres.

Three other fires, the Ouzel, Huckleberry and Pitchstone are all one acre or less in size. They are being managed to allow natural processes to occur to enhance the area's natural resources, to protect people and property, and to effectively use available firefighting resources.

The Sour Fire, which was burning east of Canyon Village, and the Heart Fire, which was burning north of Heart Lake, were declared out at a tenth of an acre, September 4 and 6, respectively.

Other than limited temporary closures of some backcountry campsites and hiking trails, all park entrances, roads and services are open. None of these fires pose a threat to park visitors.

When actively burning, smoke from any of these fires may be visible from park roadways. Updated information is available 24-hours a day by calling 307-344-2580, or on the web at <http://www.inciweb.org/unit/5382/>. The Point Fire may also be observed from the Fire Lookout web cam on Mount Washburn at <http://www.nps.gov/yell/photosmultimedia/webcams.htm>.

The fire danger rating in Yellowstone is currently "Very High," and continued warm and dry weather with little precipitation is predicted for the next week. Visitors are encouraged to be careful with campfires, grills, camp stoves and smoking materials. There have been 18 fires reported in Yellowstone this year.

The latest information on backcountry access is available at park Visitor Centers or Backcountry Offices.



WEATHER FORECAST**NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park WY**

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 8:38 am MDT Sep 7, 2011



Today: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after noon. Mostly sunny, with a high near 65. Southeast wind between 7 and 11 mph.

Tonight: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms before midnight. Partly cloudy, with a low around 33. South southeast wind around 9 mph.

Thursday: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after noon. Mostly sunny, with a high near 65. South wind between 3 and 6 mph.

SUBMISSIONS

If you have an item or digital picture you think other employees should know about or would like to know about, please send an email to YELL_Public_Affairs@nps.gov.

YNP@Work

A Daily Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Thursday, September 8, 2011

AN INTRODUCTION

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ACTING ASSIGNMENTS / OUT OF THE OFFICE

Jean Sigafoos is staffing the Front Office today, as both Jan Laye and Kerrie Evans are absent.

Supt. Dan Wenk will be out of the office this afternoon, Friday, and Monday.

CALENDAR ITEMS

The Bechler Area ID team is set to meet Tuesday, September 13 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the YCR Conference Room.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A reminder: after the holiday weekend hiatus, 30-minute delays are possible in connection with the construction of the new Lamar River Bridge.

All services at Roosevelt have concluded for the season. Canyon Campground is closed for the season.

IN THE NEWS

Sep 7, 1:14 PM EDT

2 more grizzlies captured after Yellowstone attack

BILLINGS, Mont. (AP) -- A Yellowstone National Park spokesman says two more grizzly bears have been captured as part of an investigation into last month's mauling death of a Michigan man.

Park spokesman Al Nash said Wednesday that the adult male bears were captured Sunday in the Hayden Valley area, where 59-year-old John Wallace of Chassell, Mich., was killed on Aug. 25 while hiking alone in the park's backcountry.

Nash says hair samples were taken from the animals for DNA testing. The bears were fitted with radio collars for tracking and released.

Park officials have said they will kill the bear that mauled Wallace if they can confirm its role through DNA analysis. Another bear captured last week also was released after being radio collared.

Mead critical of Yellowstone winter use proposal

By MARTIN KIDSTON Billings Gazette Wyoming Bureau | Posted: Wednesday, September 7, 2011 1:30 pm

CODY, Wyo. — In a letter to Yellowstone National Park on Tuesday, Gov. Matt Mead called for more daily snowmobile trips into the park and said a portion of those trips should be allowed without a commercial guide.

Mead also said that all oversnow vehicles — not just snowmobiles — should be required to meet air emission standards, and that a proposed rule stating that snowmobiles must enter the park by 10:30 a.m. is unrealistic.

"Protection of resources does not have to come at the expense of access," Mead wrote in his letter to Park Superintendent Daniel Wenk. "We can have both — healthy resources and open access."

Yellowstone National Park's latest winter use plan expired in March. The park is working to craft a new plan which it hopes to implement by December.

Al Nash, park spokesman, said around 60,000 comments were received on the environmental impact study regarding the park's new winter-use plan. The comment period closed Wednesday on the draft rule.

"We look seriously at all comments submitted," Nash said. "They are used to help us as we prepare a final EIS and then a decision and a final rule. All of that is important to the process."

While some have praised the park's proposed plan as a balance between winter use and resource protection, several Wyoming gateway communities, along with the Governor's Office, have called it too restrictive.

Mead took particular issue with a number of proposed changes to winter use in the park, including a variable limit to the number of snowmobiles and slowcoaches allowed into the park on any given day.

Mead said the proposed management plan would amount to a loss of 5,728 snowmobile allocations per day when compared to last winter.

While the park has said the limits would help mitigate impacts to air quality, wildlife and the park's natural soundscapes, Mead believes the rule fails to cite any science supporting the proposed change.

Mead also touched on the use of commercial guides, saying that while he does not appose commercially guided snowmobiling, he was disappointed that the proposed rule doesn't allow noncommercial guides.

"The requirement that 100 percent of snowmobile entries into Yellowstone be commercially guided is extreme and unreasonable," Mead wrote. "Responsible noncommercial use of Yellowstone can be accomplished."

MOST RECENT PARK NEWS RELEASE

FIRE UPDATE - Heart Complex: September 6, 2011 – 2:00 p.m.

<http://www.nps.gov/yell/parknews/11088e.htm>.

FIRE UPDATE

The Point Fire, on the eastern shore of Yellowstone Lake, remains estimated at 1,100 acres. The Gibbon Fire is still estimated at 16-18 acres. Three other fires, the Ouzel, Huckleberry and Pitchstone are all one acre or less in size. You can find some recent digital still images of the Point Fire at [P:\Fires_2011\Point_Fire\Point Fire Photos](#).

From <http://inciweb.org/incident/2439/>

Bull Fire Update: Wednesday morning, September 7.

The Bull Fire is approximately 740 acres and is located approximately 13 miles east of Gardiner, MT in the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness near Bull Mountain in the Hellroaring Creek drainage. The lightning caused fire was detected late in the afternoon on July 29th and is burning in dead and downed trees near the site of the 1996 Coyote Fire, and near the 1988 Hellroaring Fire.

Activity on the Bull Fire has increased with warmer and drier weather. The north end of the fire is currently the most active with some group tree torching and spotting. Due to the increased activity and spread northward up through the Hellroaring drainage area, firefighters on site continue to implement a proactive protection plan for the Hellroaring Cabin and other nearby infrastructure by pre-positioning water pumps and sprinkler systems. A total of four firefighters will remain onsite until the fire behavior has decreased. To reduce safety risks for hunters and other recreational backcountry users, trail closures were implemented on the Low Specimen Trail (FS Trail #84) from its junction with the High Specimen Trail (FS Trail #252) east to its junction with the Hellroaring Trail (FS Trail #91) and on the Hellroaring Trail south of that junction to the northern boundary of Yellowstone National Park.

Where is the smoke in the air coming from? Not all of it is from fires burning in the park! Check out this neat map: <http://wildfiretoday.com/2011/09/07/map-of-wildfire-smoke-september-7-2011/>.

WEATHER FORECAST

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park WY

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 2:24 am MDT Sep 8, 2011



Today: Isolated showers and thunderstorms after noon. Mostly sunny, with a high near 67. South southeast wind between 3 and 5 mph. Chance of precipitation is 20%.

Tonight: Isolated showers and thunderstorms before midnight. Partly cloudy, with a low around 33. East wind between 5 and 9 mph. Chance of precipitation is 20%.

Friday: Sunny, with a high near 66. East wind between 5 and 7 mph.

YNP@Work

A Daily Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Friday, September 9, 2011

ANNOUNCEMENTS

By a joint resolution approved December 18, 2001 (Public Law 107-89), the Congress has designated September 11 of each year as Patriot Day, and by Public Law 111-13, approved April 21, 2009, has requested the observance of September 11 as an annually recognized National Day of Service and Remembrance.

As per recent practice, the President is expected to issue a proclamation today or Saturday directing that the flag of the United States be flown at half staff on Sunday in conjunction with this observance.

For those who have a flag which cannot be lowered to half staff, it is accepted patriotic practice to hang a black ribbon or streamer – preferably the width and length of a single stripe - from the top of the flag.

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Visitation stats for the month of August are just in.

The park recorded 805,173 recreational visits last month. While that's down 5.8% from the 854,837 we recorded in August 2010, it is still only the second time in the park's history where August visitation has topped the 800,000 mark.

Look for complete details in a news release to be issued later today or Monday.

IN THE NEWS

The fall issue of "Montana Quarterly" magazine contains an in-depth feature on the park's Lake Trout Eradication Program. You can access a PDF copy of the story at [P:\Lake Trout Removal](#).

CALENDAR ITEMS

The Bechler Area ID team is set to meet Tuesday, September 13 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the YCR Conference Room.

ACTING ASSIGNMENTS / OUT OF THE OFFICE

Supt. Dan Wenk will be out of the office today and Monday.



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WEATHER FORECAST



NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park WY

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 2:33 am MDT Sep 9, 2011

Today: Sunny, with a high near 67. East wind around 6 mph.

Tonight: Mostly clear, with a low around 35. East southeast wind between 6 and 11 mph.

Saturday: Sunny, with a high near 68. East northeast wind around 5 mph becoming calm.

YNP@Work

A Daily Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Monday, September 12, 2011

ANNOUNCEMENTS

All are welcome to attend the Employee Safety Committee Meeting scheduled for 10:00 a.m. Wednesday, September 14, at the Old Faithful Ranger Station conference room. Agendas and minutes can always be found at the Employee Safety Committee Sharepoint site at <http://inpyellshare/emsc>. If you would like to listen to the meeting via conference call, use the toll free number 888-930-9220 and participant code 1885448.

Scheduled maintenance on NPS computer systems means you can expect to lose Internet access from NPS computers – and your Lotus Notes or Blackberry email service - for periods of up to one hour long this Wednesday and Thursday evening between 8:00 p.m. and midnight.

The Yellowstone Park Foundation is holding its annual fall board meeting at Yellowstone Lake later this week. It will be preceded by a strategic planning retreat of the board, and followed by a weekend donor event. Several YNP staff members will be making presentations to the group and hosting field trips.

In YPF's fiscal year 2011, they contributed \$3.4 million to YNP and funded numerous projects such as bat, trumpeter swan, and raptor research studies; new bear boxes for campgrounds; the outfitting of 11 emergency response vehicles; and ongoing programs such as the Wolf Project and Youth Conservation Corps.

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ACTING ASSIGNMENTS / OUT OF THE OFFICE

Supt. Dan Wenk will be out of the office today.

MOST RECENT PARK NEWS RELEASE

September 9, 2011 11-094

Hunters Reminded Of Yellowstone Regulations

With the opening of hunting seasons on lands surrounding Yellowstone National Park, hunters are reminded that hunting is not permitted within the park. Though most of the park boundary is well marked, it is the responsibility of the hunters to ensure they do not hunt within the park.

Federal law strictly prohibits the killing or removal of any animal, living or dead, from inside Yellowstone. This includes animals legally shot outside the park which then cross into and die within the park boundary. Taking and removing any animal parts, including shed antlers, is also prohibited.

Violators are investigated and aggressively prosecuted, and are subject to penalties including fines, restitution, and the forfeiture of vehicles, equipment and personal property associated with the violations.

While a 2009 federal law allows visitors who can legally possess firearms under applicable federal and state laws to legally possess firearms in Yellowstone National Park, the discharge of firearms remains prohibited.

Additionally, possession of other weapons such as bows, swords, and pellet or BB guns are not affected by 2009 law and remain prohibited. Additional details are available on the web at <http://www.nps.gov/yell/parkmgmt/lawsandpolicies.htm>.

Continuing this year is a restriction on the transport of heads and spinal cords of deer, elk, or moose which were taken in states known to have chronic wasting disease in wildlife. Complete details can be found on page 16 of the 2010 Superintendent's Compendium, which is available online at http://www.nps.gov/yell/planyourvisit/upload/supt_compendium.pdf.

Game animal carcasses or parts may be transported through Yellowstone by motor vehicle on park roads only if they are covered or stored out of sight, accompanied by a transport permit from the National Park Service, and are bearing a valid state tag as evidence that the animal was taken legally outside of the park.

Transport permits must be secured before entering the park, and can be obtained at any park entrance station or by calling (307) 344-7381, and arranging to meet with a ranger.

Game animals cannot be transported on backcountry trails or stored overnight anywhere in the park, including campgrounds, parking lots, or at concession facilities. Stock users are reminded that proof of a current, negative Coggins test is required for all horses and mules being transported into or through the park.

Visitors or hunters who observe illegal hunting activity within the park should call the NPS tip line at (307) 344-2132. In some cases a cash reward is offered for information leading to the arrest and conviction of anyone illegally using firearms in the park or illegally killing or transporting wildlife in the park.

FIRE UPDATE



The Trischman Fire is approximately three to five acres and is burning 4.5 miles west of Shoshone Lake and 6 miles southwest of Old Faithful. This fire is being suppressed with sixteen smokejumpers supported by Yellowstone's Lama Helicopter. This suppression decision was based largely on striving to not be potentially impactful on both the east entrance road and Old Faithful area simultaneously. Currently no use retardant is authorized on this incident due to the proximity of the fire to the headwaters of the Firehole River.

There are five active fires in the Heart Complex. Four fires in the complex are being managed for multiple objectives with the priority on firefighter and public safety, and to allow natural processes to occur within the Greater Yellowstone Area. The Pitchstone Fire, whose origin could not be determined, is being managed under a confinement strategy prioritizing public and firefighter safety and commensurate with the values at risk. Until the fire shows increased activity it is being monitored from aircraft in conjunction with the Ouzel fire 11 miles to its west.

Point - Approximately 1100 acres. Near the east shore of Yellowstone Lake in the Clear Creek drainage approximately 5 miles west of the East Entrance road. Consistent light to moderate to fire activity and wind-driven growth to the northeast. Peak activity is typically late in the burning period (after 1700 hours). The fire is primarily on the ground burning in downed and dead logs with occasional passive and active crown fire behavior. As a precautionary measure the Thorofare Trail is closed from the Nine Mile Trailhead to one mile south of the fire area. Four firefighters are based out of the Clear Creek Cabin, and engaged in structure protection and fire monitoring. Smoke impacts along the East Entrance road have been minimal. The fire is burning within an 1800 acre gap in between the 2003 Grizzly and East Fires. As expected the Point Fire has spotted into the East Fire scar into downed fuels, but is not actively spreading in it.

SUBMISSIONS SOUGHT

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WEATHER FORECAST

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park WY

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 2:31 am MDT Sep 12, 2011

Today: Isolated showers and thunderstorms after noon. Some of the storms could produce gusty winds. Partly sunny, with a high near 63. West southwest wind between 9 and 14 mph. Chance of precipitation is 20%.

Tonight: Isolated showers and thunderstorms before midnight. Partly cloudy, with a low around 35. West wind between 10 and 13 mph. Chance of precipitation is 20%.

Tuesday: Isolated showers and thunderstorms after noon. Mostly sunny, with a high near 65. West southwest wind between 8 and 11 mph. Chance of precipitation is 20%.

YNP@Work

A Daily Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Tuesday, September 13, 2011

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Yellowstone National Park Emergency Medical Services (EMS), in partnership with Gateway Hose Company (Gardiner Ambulance), will host an EMT class beginning in October. Upon completion of this class, graduates will be eligible to test for Montana certification as well as National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians Basic (NREMT-B) certification. The class will be held Monday and Wednesday evenings from October 12 to April 16, from 6:00 pm to 8:30 pm in the Mammoth Community Center. Those interested in taking the class are asked to send a self-nomination letter by September 26 including reasons why they want to be an EMT-B to Boone_Vandzura@nps.gov.

Montana PBS will air two programs about the park back-to-back tonight "Above Yellowstone" airs at 8:00 p.m., followed by "Silence and Solitude: Yellowstone Winter Wilderness" at 9:00 p.m.

All are welcome to attend the Employee Safety Committee Meeting scheduled for 10:00 a.m. Wednesday, September 14, at the Old Faithful Ranger Station conference room. Agendas and minutes can always be found at the Employee Safety Committee Sharepoint site at <http://inpyellshare/emsc>. If you would like to listen to the meeting via conference call, use the toll free number 888-930-9220 and participant code 1885448.

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The Yellowstone Park Foundation is holding its annual fall board meeting at Yellowstone Lake later this week. It will be preceded by a strategic planning retreat of the board, and followed by a weekend donor event. Several YNP staff members will be making presentations to the group and hosting field trips.

In YPF's fiscal year 2011, they contributed \$3.4 million to YNP and funded numerous projects such as bat, trumpeter swan, and raptor research studies; new bear boxes for campgrounds; the outfitting of 11 emergency response vehicles; and ongoing programs such as the Wolf Project and Youth Conservation Corps.

IN THE NEWS

No items this morning.

CALENDAR ITEMS

The Bechler Area ID team is set to meet today 13 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the YCR Conference Room.

ACTING ASSIGNMENTS / OUT OF THE OFFICE

No items today.

RECENT PARK NEWS RELEASES

September 12, 2011 - Yellowstone August Visitation

<http://www.nps.gov/yell/parknews/11095.htm>

September 11, 2011 - Yellowstone Fire Update: September 11, 2011

<http://www.nps.gov/yell/parknews/11088f.htm>

FIRE UPDATE**September 12th - Heart Complex Update**

The Trischman Fire is approximately three to five acres and is burning 4.5 miles west of Shoshone Lake and 6 miles southwest of Old Faithful. This fire is being suppressed with sixteen smokejumpers supported by Yellowstone's Lama Helicopter. The fire is now contained, and efforts to control it will continue through tomorrow. Full demobilization of this incident is planned for Wednesday the 14th.

There are still five active fires in the Heart Complex. Four fires in the complex are being managed for multiple objectives with the priority on firefighter and public safety, and to allow natural processes to occur within the Greater Yellowstone Area. The Pitchstone Fire, whose origin could not be determined, is being managed under a confinement strategy prioritizing public and firefighter safety and commensurate with the values at risk. Until the fire shows increased activity it is being monitored from aircraft in conjunction with the Ouzel fire 11 miles to its west.

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Bull Fire Update for September 12, 2011

Current Status: Activity on the Bull Fire increased some over the weekend with warmer and drier weather. It is now 900 acres. The north end of the fire is currently the most active with some group tree torching and spotting. Due to the increased activity and spread northward up through the Hellroaring drainage area, firefighters on site continue to implement a proactive protection plan for the Hellroaring Cabin and other nearby infrastructure by

pre-positioning water pumps and sprinkler systems. Several firefighters will remain onsite in the coming days until the fire behavior has decreased.

Additional TRAIL CLOSURES: Lower Specimen Trail (FS Trail #84) from its junction with the High Specimen Trail (FS Trail #252) approximately 2.5 miles east to its junction with the Hellroaring Trail (FS Trail #91), and on the Hellroaring Trail south of that junction approximately 2.5 miles to the northern boundary of Yellowstone National Park.

The lightning-caused Bull Fire was detected late in the afternoon on July 29th. The fire is burning in dead and downed trees in the site of the 1996 Coyote Fire area and near the 1988 Hellroaring Fire.

The Bull Fire is being managed under the Wilderness Area management direction by allowing fire to play its natural role on the landscape. Wildland fire is an important instrument needed to maintain fire-adapted ecosystems. This is especially important in achieving overall goals of wilderness management. The Bull Fire is burning and consuming some pockets of heavy, standing dead snags and downed logs that were a result of the 1996 Coyote Fire. Utilizing this lightning-caused fire to clean up these heavy fuels will reduce the potential for more intense fire behavior that could occur in the Hellroaring and Specimen Creek areas.

Updated Bull Fire information is available on the national incident website at <http://inciweb.org/incident/2439/>.

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WEATHER FORECAST

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park WY

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 3:10 am MDT Sep 13, 2011

Today: Scattered showers and thunderstorms after noon. Mostly sunny, with a high near 63. West southwest wind between 8 and 13 mph. Chance of precipitation is 30%.

Tonight: A slight chance of rain showers before midnight, then a slight chance of rain and snow showers. Partly cloudy, with a low around 32. West wind between 6 and 10 mph. Chance of precipitation is 20%.

Wednesday: A slight chance of rain, then scattered rain and thunderstorms after noon. Partly sunny, with a high near 61. West southwest wind between 5 and 11 mph. Chance of precipitation is 40%.

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All are welcome to attend the **Employee Safety Committee Meeting** scheduled for 10:00 a.m. **today** at the Old Faithful Ranger Station conference room. Agendas and minutes can always be found at the Employee Safety Committee Sharepoint site at <http://inpyellshare/emsc>. If you would like to listen to the meeting via conference call, use the toll free number 888-930-9220 and participant code 1885448.

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There is still time to sign up for the **Yellowstone Leadership Academy**, a condensed 2 1/2 day session designed for anyone seeking self-improvement and who is willing to dedicate themselves to focusing on true, meaningful results in the workplace. The park is now holding just one session in Mammoth from 8:00 a.m. Monday, September 19 until Noon on Wednesday, September 21.

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If you are interested, please check with your supervisor – and then RSVP ASAP to bonnie_schwartz@nps.gov.

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I thought it might be of interest to the staff to update the work that has been done along Soda Butte Creek above the Northeast Entrance. In particular, the completed cleanup of the Republic Smelter Site (adjacent to the Cooke City garbage compactor), and the current cleanup of the McLaren tailings just east of Cooke City.

I realize that the two sites mentioned above were outside of the proposed New World Mine district that partly influenced the decision to list Yellowstone as a World Heritage Site in Danger, but those two areas greatly contributed to releases of

heavy metals and acid mine drainage into Soda Butte Creek. Macro invertebrates and Yellowstone Cutthroat trout were unable to live in Soda Butte Creek for many miles downstream into YNP. With the work in recent years, cutthroat trout have been seen in Soda Butte Creek between Silver Gate and Cooke City.

The extensive, and almost completed, cleanup of the New World District just north of Cooke City is another success story that has greatly improved water quality in the Greater Yellowstone Area.

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Do you have a greening story you want the Park to know? Send your achievements to the Green Team attention [Nancy E Patterson@nps.gov](mailto:Nancy_E_Patterson@nps.gov). We can't wait to hear what you've been up to!

Yellowstone National Park Emergency Medical Services (EMS), in partnership with Gateway Hose Company (Gardiner Ambulance), will host an **EMT class beginning in October**. Upon completion of this class, graduates will be eligible to test for Montana certification as well as National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians Basic (NREMT-B) certification. The class will be held Monday and Wednesday evenings from October 12 to April 16, from 6:00 pm to 8:30 pm in the Mammoth Community Center. Those interested in taking the class are asked to send a self-nomination letter by September 26 including reasons why they want to be an EMT-B to Boone_Vandzura@nps.gov.

Scheduled maintenance on **NPS computer systems** means you can expect to lose Internet access from NPS computers – and your Lotus Notes or Blackberry email service - for periods of up to one hour long this tonight and tomorrow night between 8:00 p.m. and midnight.

The **Yellowstone Park Foundation** is holding its annual fall board meeting at Yellowstone Lake later this week. It will be preceded by a strategic planning retreat of the board, and followed by a weekend donor event. Several YNP staff members will be making presentations to the group and hosting field trips.

In YPF's fiscal year 2011, they contributed \$3.4 million to YNP and funded numerous projects such as bat, trumpeter swan, and raptor research studies; new bear boxes for campgrounds; the outfitting of 11 emergency response vehicles; and ongoing programs such as the Wolf Project and Youth Conservation Corps.

ACTING ASSIGNMENTS / OUT OF THE OFFICE

Brian Suderman will be Acting Deputy Chief of Interpretation for Operations and Youth Programs from Thursday, September 15 through Monday, September 19.

Chief Ranger Tim Reid will be out of the park beginning Thursday, September 15 until the end of the month on an NPS assignment in Tanzania.

IN THE NEWS

Sep 13, 9:33 PM EDT

Montana cattle herd quarantined over disease

By MATTHEW BROWN

BILLINGS, Mont. (AP) -- Montana livestock officials said Tuesday that a Park County cattle herd has been quarantined after six of the animals tested positive for the disease brucellosis.

Additional testing on the animals was under way to confirm the disease, said state veterinarian Marty Zaluski. If confirmed, it would be the region's 15th infection in livestock since 2004.

Introduced by early European settlers and once widespread, brucellosis has since been largely eradicated from cattle nationwide after a decades-long government effort. It persists in parts of Texas and in wildlife in and around Yellowstone National Park.

Brucellosis can cause pregnant animals to miscarry and has been blamed for weight loss and other problems in cattle. It is not considered a significant threat to human health.

Errol Rice with the Montana Stockgrowers Association said the suspected infection in the 150-head herd demonstrated that more needs to be done to eliminate the disease.

"The more cases we continue to identify, it makes you wonder have we really made that much progress on mitigating the problem," Rice said. "The fact remains we still have a large reservoir of the disease in a particular area of Montana that continues to affect our industry."

Thousands of Yellowstone bison have been captured and sent to slaughter over the last decade to prevent transmissions to cattle when the bison migrate to lower elevations in Montana. That has not stopped transmissions from the tens of thousands of elk that roam freely across the Yellowstone region.

Tests on elk over the last year revealed a new area of wildlife infections in parts of Montana west of Yellowstone. Montana, Idaho and Wyoming in recent years started requiring more stringent testing and vaccinations against the disease. That prompted the federal government to stop automatically imposing trade restrictions on states that have multiple infections.

The government also no longer requires that infected herds be slaughtered.

State officials did not disclose the name of the ranch where the disease was found. The Park County infections, if confirmed, would mark Montana's fourth case in recent years, including one in November on a bison ranch owned by media mogul and philanthropist Ted Turner.

Turner's bison remain under quarantine, although testing is under way to lift restrictions on the animals, state officials said.

Wyoming had two outbreaks last year and one in February. Idaho's last outbreak was in 2009.

Park County and the Park County Stockgrowers Association each have lawsuits pending over the management of Yellowstone's bison by the state and federal governments. A hearing in those cases was scheduled next month in Lewistown.

RECENT PARK NEWS RELEASES

September 13, 2011

UNESCO World Heritage Centre and IUCN Representatives to visit Yellowstone

At the invitation of the United States government, the Director of the World Heritage Centre and a representative of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) are headed to Yellowstone later this month.

<http://www.nps.gov/yell/parknews/11096.htm>

Additional details on what the UNESCO and IUCN representatives will look at during their visit can be found at http://www.nps.gov/yell/planyourvisit/upload/yell_mission2011.pdf.

September 13, 2011

Yellowstone Fire Update: September 13, 2011

The Trischman Fire in Yellowstone National Park's south central region was declared 100 percent contained today. <http://www.nps.gov/yell/parknews/11088g.htm>

September 12, 2011

Yellowstone August Visitation

Monthly visitation to Yellowstone National Park in August topped the 800-thousand mark for only the second time in the park's history. <http://www.nps.gov/yell/parknews/11095.htm>

FIRE UPDATE

From the Fire Cache – Tuesday at 5:30 p.m.

No new fires were reported in the park today. The East Zone of the Gallatin National Forest has a new fire named the Palmer Mountain Fire located 2 miles north of the park boundary between the West fork and main stem of Crevice Creek. At the time of this update, 8 smokejumpers were enroute, the fire is about 3 acres, and our Lama Helicopter was assisting with an aerial recon and water drops.



The Trischman Fire is 5.7 acres and is located 4.5 miles west of Shoshone Lake and 6 miles southwest of Old Faithful. This fire is being suppressed with eight smokejumpers supported by Yellowstone's Lama Helicopter. The fire is contained, and efforts to control it will continue into tomorrow morning. Full demobilization of this incident is planned for tomorrow afternoon.

There are still five active fires in the Heart Complex. Four fires in the complex are being managed for multiple objectives with the priority on firefighter and public safety, and to allow natural processes to occur within the Greater Yellowstone Area. The Pitchstone Fire, whose origin could not be determined, is being managed under a confinement strategy prioritizing public and firefighter safety and commensurate with the values at risk. Until the fire shows increased activity it is being monitored from aircraft in conjunction with the Ouzel fire 11 miles to its west.

Point - Approximately 1100 acres. Near the east shore of Yellowstone Lake in the Clear Creek drainage approximately 5 miles west of the East Entrance road. Consistent light to moderate to fire activity and wind-driven growth to the northeast. Peak activity is typically late in the burning period (after 1700 hours). The fire is primarily on the ground burning in downed and dead logs with occasional passive and active crown fire behavior.

CALENDAR ITEMS

Just in case you missed it - like we did! - all services at Bridge Bay have closed for the season.

SUBMISSIONS SOUGHT

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WEATHER FORECAST**NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park WY**

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 5:53 am MDT Sep 14, 2011

Today: Showers and thunderstorms likely, mainly after noon. Some of the storms could produce small hail, heavy rain, and frequent lightning. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 59. West southwest wind between 5 and 11 mph. Chance of precipitation is 70%. New rainfall amounts between a tenth and quarter of an inch, except higher amounts possible in thunderstorms.

Tonight: Isolated showers and thunderstorms before midnight. Partly cloudy, with a low around 29. North northwest wind between 6 and 10 mph. Chance of precipitation is 20%.

Thursday: Isolated showers and thunderstorms after noon. Mostly sunny, with a high near 63. Southwest wind between 7 and 13 mph. Chance of precipitation is 20%.

YNP@Work

A Daily Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Thursday, September 15, 2011

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RECENT PARK NEWS RELEASES

September 14, 2011

Entries Sought for 9th Annual Yellowstone Fall Photo Festival

Amateur and professional photographers alike are again being invited to share some of their favorite photos taken in and around Yellowstone with the members of the public. <http://www.nps.gov/yell/parknews/11098.htm>

September 14, 2011

Free Entrance to Yellowstone on Saturday, September 24

Yellowstone National Park is offering free visitor admission on Saturday, September 24, in honor of National Public Lands Day. All entrance fees for the day, including commercial tour entrance fees and transportation entrance fees, will be waived. <http://www.nps.gov/yell/parknews/11097.htm>

September 13, 2011

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At the invitation of the United States government, the Director of the World Heritage Centre and a representative of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) are headed to Yellowstone later this month.

<http://www.nps.gov/yell/parknews/11096.htm> Additional details on what the UNESCO and IUCN representatives will look at during their visit can be found at http://www.nps.gov/yell/planyourvisit/upload/yell_mission2011.pdf.

FIRE UPDATE**From the Fire Cache – Wednesday 5:30 p.m.**

No new fires were reported in the park today. Several wet weather disturbances moved through the park. More are predicted over the next few days.

The Trischman Fire is 5.7 acres, and is located 4.5 miles west of Shoshone Lake and 6 miles southwest of Old Faithful. This fire is now controlled. Demobilization of the final 8 personnel assigned to this incident occurred today.

There are still five active fires in the Heart Complex. Four fires in the complex are being managed for multiple objectives with the priority on firefighter and public safety, and to allow natural processes to occur within the Greater Yellowstone Area. The Pitchstone Fire, whose origin could not be determined, is being managed under a confinement strategy prioritizing public and firefighter safety and commensurate with the values at risk. Until the fire shows increased activity it is being monitored from aircraft in conjunction with the Ouzel fire 11 miles to its west.

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WEATHER FORECAST**NWS Zone Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park, WY**

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 621 AM MDT THU SEP 15 2011

Today...Mostly sunny in the morning then becoming partly cloudy. Highs 61 to 67.

Tonight...Partly cloudy. Lows 33 to 39.

Friday...Cloudy. Scattered rain showers in the morning...then numerous rain showers and isolated thunderstorms in the afternoon. Highs 56 to 64. Southwest winds around 15 mph in the afternoon. Chance of precipitation 60 percent.

IN THE NEWS**Trail in Yellowstone named after noted dude rancher, guide, conservationist no longer maintained****BRETT FRENCH Of The Billings Gazette Staff | Posted: Thursday, September 15, 2011 12:00 am**

Yellowstone National Park seems to have forgotten Howard Eaton, a man the institution once honored.

Scattered markers refer to the Howard Eaton Trail, but it is no longer maintained. A log-framed sign erected when the trail was dedicated on July 19, 1923, with a photo of Eaton on his favorite mount, Danger, and information about his ties to the park, was eventually removed and not replaced.

The sign was planted close to Sheepeater Cliff, near the headwaters of the Gardner River, one of Eaton's favorite camping spots in the park's northwest corner.

Who was Howard Eaton, and why has he been forgotten in a place he helped introduce to the public?

Original dude rancher

Eaton was a multifaceted man who had a wide range of experiences. He is credited by some with creating the first dude ranch with his brothers in what is now North Dakota in 1882. There he met Theodore Roosevelt, who became a lifelong friend. Eventually, he pulled up stakes and moved his family's ranch to Wyoming, where it still exists. In his later years, Eaton was named to a special commission to save bison.

One year after his death in the spring of 1922, the 157-mile-long trail that circles the center of Yellowstone National Park was dedicated in his memory, along with the biographical plaque honoring him.

Leslie Quinn, who works in Yellowstone and has hiked much of the Eaton trail, said the impetus behind the dedication likely came from Sam Woodring, the park's chief ranger at the time.

Easterner goes West

Howard Eaton was born in Pittsburgh in 1851 and traveled west as a young man. In 1879 he squatted on land near what is now Medora, N.D. (Portions of the rugged badlands of the Little Missouri River are now part of another park, named for Theodore Roosevelt.) With the help of his brothers, Alden and Willis, who followed Howard later, the Eatons combined their separate holdings in 1883 and built up the ranching business five miles south of Medora on both sides of the Little Missouri. They eventually began playing host to guests from the East who visited the West to hunt, camp and roam the still-wild country.

The ranch was established only three years after the Battle of the Little Bighorn. To honor the battle's best-known casualty, Lt. Col. George Custer, who had camped nearby, the Eatons named their ranch the Custer Trail Ranch.

The ranch's transition to a dude operation may have begun when a letter written by Eaton to a friend was published in a New York newspaper. In the article, Eaton extolled the virtues of the West. The letter is believed to have prompted Roosevelt's visit to the Dakotas the next year, 1883. Counts and royalty followed, with the Eatons housing, feeding and providing stock for the men as they hunted bison.

"Although the practice was contrary to the code of ranching hospitality, the Eatons did take their first paying guest in 1882, Bert Rumsey of Buffalo, New York," wrote Lawrence R. Borne in his book, "Dude Ranching, A Complete History." The going rate back then was \$10 a week.

In 1883, Eaton led the first of what would be many pack trips into Yellowstone National Park, which had been established by Congress in 1872. The trip was possible because the Northern Pacific Railroad had finally reached Cinnabar, just north of Gardiner at the park's North Entrance. That allowed Eaton to ferry his guests, wranglers and pack stock to the park's border.

In 1898, Eaton launched his first large pack trip into Yellowstone. The group included "40 guests (all men); he took lots of saddle and pack horses, tents, a wagon, a cook, horse wrangler, teamster, guides and other workers. From this time on the Eatons' ranch had a pack trip to Yellowstone Park every year," Borne wrote.

Guests were coddled with "girls" making the guests' beds and serving them food while wranglers took care of the horses and set up the tents. The annual park trips were long by today's standard. Eaton would spend 20 or more days in Yellowstone, and 15 days touring Glacier.

Creating a niche

"The brothers had no comprehensive scheme yet but had decided to take advantage of the extraordinary surroundings to found a place where 'easterners of the better and more influential classes, more particularly of the younger generation' could build themselves up mentally and physically through association with nature," Borne wrote.

The pack trips involved rough terrain and unpredictable weather, but guests were well cared for.

The best example of what an Eaton trip may have been like can be found in the book "Through Glacier Park, Seeing America First With Howard Eaton," by Mary Roberts Rinehart, published in 1916. Rinehart was better known at the time for her mystery novels, but she loved the outdoors.

"She was one of the wildest women to go on outdoor adventures," Borne told The Gazette. Quinn, the Yellowstone worker, calls her book one of the best resources on early pack trips.

Rinehart's trip with Eaton to Glacier was no small affair. She notes that the party included 42 people, two wagons and the crossing of six passes.

"One rises early with Howard Eaton's party. No matter how late the story-tellers have held the crowd the night before around the camp-fire. Somewhere around five o'clock, Howard — he is either Howard or Uncle Howard to everybody — comes calling among the tepees.

"'Time to get up!' he calls. 'Five o'clock and a fine morning. Up with you.'"

Among the storytellers was Charles M. Russell, noted Montana artist.

Rinehart goes on to describe long tables set out next to the cook tent "laden with bacon, ham, fried eggs, flapjacks, round tins of butter, enameled cups of hot coffee, condensed milk, sometimes fried fish."

"Howard Eaton always made the coffee. It was good coffee ... strong coffee, as hot as possible."

Insight into the man

In her book, Rinehart gives an extensive description of Eaton.

"Howard Eaton is extremely young. He was born quite a number of years ago, but what is that? He is a boy, and he takes an annual frolic. And, because it means a cracking good time, he takes people with him and puts horses under them and the fear of God in their hearts, and bacon and many other things, including beans, in their stomachs.

"He has taken foreign princes and many of the great people of the earth to the tops of the mountains, and shown them grizzly bears, and their own insignificance, at one and the same time. He is a hunter, a sportsman, and a splendid gentleman.

"He has hunted along the Rockies from Alaska to Mexico. He probably knows Montana, Wyoming and Idaho as well as any man in the country."

Rinehart goes on to praise him as "a hunter who puts the greenest tenderfoot at ease and teaches him without apparently teaching at all; a host whose first thought is always for his guests; a calm-faced man with twinkling blue eyes, who is proud of his 'boys' and his friends all over the world — that is Howard Eaton as nearly as he can be put on paper."

Move to Wyoming

By the time Rinehart rode with Eaton, he and his brothers had sold their Dakota ranch for cash after the deadly winter of 1887-88. The wicked winter helped motivate the Eatons to eventually move farther west, to the base of the Bighorn Mountains of Wyoming.

"One of the crazy things that happened is they told the guests they were going to be closed for a year when they moved and the guests showed up anyway," Borne said. "That shows you how different tourists are today compared to back then."

That was in 1903, and in 14 years they built the ranch along Wolf Creek up to 7,000 acres, 500 horses, hundreds of cattle and accommodations for 125 guests — the largest dude ranch in the country, Borne wrote.

"The success of Eatons' and other early ranches led to a rapid expansion of the industry in Wyoming," Borne wrote.

He credited Rinehart above all others for the publicity she gave dude ranching. It's no wonder she was taken with the trips. They were unusual affairs. In 1916, she and her family made another trip with Eaton into Glacier that included two wooden boats carried by wagon. They then floated the North Fork of the Flathead River from the Canadian border 100 miles south — probably the first guided fishing trip on the stream.

Not content to explore the Northern Rockies, by 1916 the brothers were also branching out to provide a monthlong trip to the Grand Canyon and Indian villages in the Southwest. It was supposedly after one such ride to the Grand Canyon that artist Charley Russell crafted a painting as a thank-you to Eaton for allowing him to ride along. (Eaton never charged Russell because he entertained the guests with his stories.) The painting shows two hunters returning to camp to find two skunks raiding their food. The oil on canvas is titled "Man's Weapons are Useless When Nature Goes Armed (Weapons of the Weak; Two of a Kind Win)."

The conservationist

Known as a great hunter and guide, Eaton was also concerned with the conservation of game animals. His friend, George Bird Grinnell, editor of Forest and Stream and a strong advocate for protecting species, may have helped to focus that concern for preservation of wildlife in places like Yellowstone National Park.

Borne wrote that "as early as 1882, (Eaton) was involved with plans to try to save the buffalo (bison) from extinction," working with people such as Michael Pablo, who was instrumental in keeping herds safe in the Flathead Valley. Borne also noted that Eaton had a herd of 40 bison, some of which he sold to zoos.

Roosevelt later appointed Eaton to the National Park Commission to help prevent the extinction of buffalo. Borne wrote that Eaton "made regular trips to capture game animals and then shipped them to zoos and parks; he sent as many as 50 elk east at a time and sometimes rode along in the freight car to see that the animals arrived uninjured."

It was Eaton's concern for wildlife that prompted him to travel to Jackson Hole, Wyo., in the winter to help feed starving elk. By then, he was 71 years old. When he returned from the trying trip, Eaton suffered an appendicitis attack. He was operated on but died of infection weeks later on April 5, 1922. The following year, the Howard Eaton Trail was dedicated in his memory.

"It was the trail system he used for almost 40 years," said Lee Whittlesey, Yellowstone National Park historian. "Today, unfortunately, the trail is no longer maintained."

With the advent of car travel in Yellowstone in 1915, transportation in the park was forever changed. Eventually, large parties no longer traveled by horseback. The Eaton Trail, which closely followed what is now the "Grand Loop" figure-eight road around the interior of the park, was abandoned in the 1970s.

"There's no question that he was one of the most important people getting dude ranching under way," Borne said, adding that the business meant a lot to Yellowstone in its early years. "They were responsible for bringing a lot of people to the park."

YNP@Work

A Daily Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Friday, September 16, 2011

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Due to popular demand, the Yellowstone Research Library's Bookmobile is going to make an extra run this summer. We'll be coming around on Thursday the 22nd so let us know if we can either pick up books or drop them off. Our catalog is available at <http://wyld.state.wy.us/yrl/> . Check us out!

<u>Area</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Where we'll be</u>
Norris	8-8:30	Housing area
Madison	9:30-10:00	Housing area/District Office
Old Faithful	11:00-11:45	Ranger Station
Grant	12:15 Pickup/Drop-off	Visitor's Center
Fishing Bridge	1:30-2:00	Visitor Center Parking Lot
Canyon	3:00 Pickup/Drop-off	Visitor's Center
Tower	4:00	Ranger's Station

Is your area not on the list? Can you not make it to our times? Give us a call or email us and we'll work to make sure you can get your books.

Did you know: With your library card, you have access to Mango which has over 30 different languages you can learn, including the seasonal favorite, *Pirate* (http://www.mangolanguages.com/try-it.php?course_id=224)

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It's been a busy summer around the park with exciting greening activities! Our new recycling contract is in full swing. Georgia Tech employees are back working on Mammoth irrigation practices. Yellowstone plastics are now going to Georgia and getting turned into carpet. And, the Green Team is the Green Team again! You can read all about these greening words in the latest Greenstone. Check it out on the Sharepoint site at <http://inpyellshare/EnvMgt/Greenstone/Forms/AllItems.aspx>.

Do you have a greening story you want the Park to know? Send your achievements to the Green Team attention [Nancy E. Patterson@nps.gov](mailto:Nancy_E_Patterson@nps.gov). We can't wait to hear what you've been up to!

ACTING ASSIGNMENTS / OUT OF THE OFFICE

Brian Suderman will be Acting Deputy Chief of Interpretation for Operations and Youth Programs through Monday, September 19.

Chief Ranger Tim Reid will be out of the park until the end of the month on an NPS assignment in Tanzania. Nick Herring is Acting Chief Ranger through Sept. 23.

RECENT PARK NEWS RELEASES

September 14, 2011

Entries Sought for 9th Annual Yellowstone Fall Photo Festival

Amateur and professional photographers alike are again being invited to share some of their favorite photos taken in and around Yellowstone with the members of the public. <http://www.nps.gov/yell/parknews/11098.htm>

September 14, 2011

Free Entrance to Yellowstone on Saturday, September 24

Yellowstone National Park is offering free visitor admission on Saturday, September 24, in honor of National Public Lands Day. All entrance fees for the day, including commercial tour entrance fees and transportation entrance fees, will be waived. <http://www.nps.gov/yell/parknews/11097.htm>

FIRE UPDATE

From the Fire Cache – Wednesday 5:30 p.m.

No new fires were reported in the park today. Several wet weather disturbances moved through the park. More are predicted over the next few days.

The Trischman Fire is 5.7 acres, and is located 4.5 miles west of Shoshone Lake and 6 miles southwest of Old Faithful. This fire is now controlled. Demobilization of the final 8 personnel assigned to this incident occurred today.

There are still five active fires in the Heart Complex. Four fires in the complex are being managed for multiple objectives with the priority on firefighter and public safety, and to allow natural processes to occur within the

Greater Yellowstone Area. The Pitchstone Fire, whose origin could not be determined, is being managed under a confinement strategy prioritizing public and firefighter safety and commensurate with the values at risk. Until the fire shows increased activity it is being monitored from aircraft in conjunction with the Ouzel fire 11 miles to its west.

Point - Approximately 1100 acres. Along the east shore of Yellowstone Lake in the Clear Creek drainage. Consistent light to moderate to fire activity and wind-driven growth to the northeast. Peak activity is typically late in the burning period (after 1700 hours).

IN THE NEWS

Commission eyes expanded fall and spring vehicle access to Yellowstone

Written by CJ Baker, The Powell Tribune - September 15, 2011 9:00 am

Yellowstone National Park enthusiasts could get an extra couple weeks in the fall and spring to drive into the park's Northeast Entrance under a proposal being considered by Park County commissioners here and in Montana.

Commissioners from both Park counties agreed to further discuss the idea of asking the National Park Service to plow U.S. Highway 212 later into the fall and begin plowing earlier in spring to allow a longer Yellowstone visiting season for wheeled vehicles. The park road between the North Entrance and Cooke City is plowed year-round, but an eight-mile stretch of the highway from Cooke City is not, and is used for snowmobiling.

Commissioners said they'll work with snowmobilers, business operators in Cooke City, Mont., and others to come up with possible specific dates.

"If we can extend those shoulders without hurting the snowmobiling folks, I'm all for it," said Commissioner Tim French.

Park County, Mont., Commissioner Marty Malone said during a conference call last week that Cooke City businesses "would like to extend that (wheeled-vehicle) season so their tourist season doesn't die in the fall and spring."

The commissioners will likely need to convince snowmobilers that it's a good idea.

"If you plow it sooner, I'm missing where it doesn't affect snowmobilers," said Bert Miller, a representative for both state and local snowmobiling groups, noting that grooming operations have to begin some time before the road opens to snowmobilers.

The trails in the Cooke City and Beartooth Mountain areas are highly prized for snowmobiling; when it closes to vehicle traffic, the eight-mile stretch of Highway 212 is groomed as an integral part of the trail snowmobile trail system.

Miller said any shortening of the snowmobiling season by extending plowing "would just be tremendously detrimental."

"I just don't think it's in Park County, Wyoming's best interest to mess with the tourist season that's slowly coming back," Miller said.

French reiterated that he didn't want to hurt snowmobiling, but he also noted that plowing could actually be a boost to tourism.

"If there's some wiggle room there, and people know they can go into Lamar (Valley) and wildlife view and take pictures for an additional two weeks, three weeks, that's going to be beneficial, too," he said.

Commissioner Dave Burke noted that the idea of plowing the road year-round comes up for debate every few years. He said extending the plowing season might be a compromise to resolve the issue. Burke acknowledged that Miller is protect his snowmobiling interests, but people in rubber-tired vehicles want to visit the park as well and "spend money just like snowmobilers, too."

Another potential obstacle, Malone said, is that the Park Service told him it doesn't have the money to extend the plowing season, though it said it was willing to consider the request.

A road closure date of Nov. 15 and opening date of April 15 was thrown out at the meeting, but was only one tentative idea.

Yellowstone bison relocations proposed in Montana

MATTHEW BROWN Associated Press | Posted: Thursday, September 15, 2011 6:53 pm

About 150 bison from Yellowstone National Park would be relocated onto state or tribal lands in Montana under a proposal announced Thursday as part of a long-stalled effort to establish new herds of the burly animals.

After spending years in a government quarantine, the bison are disease-free and ready to move once the relocation is approved and fences are built, said Ron Aasheim with Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks.

About \$2 million would need to be spent on fencing for the two state-owned properties under consideration.

Some Montana lawmakers tried unsuccessfully earlier this year to squash the relocation because of worries that the animals could transmit the disease brucellosis to cattle and crowd livestock off of pasture land prompted some Montana lawmakers.

Wildlife officials are offering four potential relocation sites: the Fort Belknap and Fort Peck Indian reservations in northeast Montana and two state-run wildlife management areas in central and southwestern Montana, Spotted Dog near Avon and Marias River near Shelby.

All the animals have been tested for brucellosis multiple times. Those tests would continue once they were relocated.

A fish and game warden for the combined Sioux and Assiniboine tribes on the Fort Peck Indian Reservation said fences already were in place around 4,800 acres of pasture set aside for the Yellowstone bison, which are prized for their pure genetics.

"We've been ready since last June," warden Robert Magnum said.

The animals would be kept at the relocation sites until a statewide bison conservation plan is completed. Officials said that plan is expected to be done by 2015.

But the head of a Powell County livestock group said Thursday that the state was not considering the potential consequences of the bison relocation.

Brian Quigley with Rocky Mountain Stockgrowers Association said the animals could easily escape their fenced enclosures and damage agricultural lands.

"We can't tolerate a free, wild-roaming buffalo," said Quigley, whose ranch is seven miles from the Spotted Dog site. "It's not like elk and deer. They'll be devastating to fencing, crop land, hay meadows, alfalfa fields."

Quigley added that he remained wary of the claim that the animals are disease-free. He said the state needed to guard against a latent infection that could show up after the animals were moved.

Earlier efforts to place the bison on tribal land fell through, and many of the quarantined bison were transferred to a ranch near Bozeman owned by media mogul and philanthropist Ted Turner.

Turner will get to keep some of the animals' offspring as compensation for holding the bison, a deal that stirred criticism among some wildlife advocates.

But Jonathan Proctor with Defenders of Wildlife said the arrangement allowed the relocation program to continue when its future had been in doubt. He said it was now time for the state to follow through and take the next step.

"We're not going to have bison roaming across the plains like we once did," Proctor said. "But the Great Plains cover 400 million acres; surely we could find a few small areas where we could restore this iconic species."

Aasheim said wildlife commissioners are expected to vote on the relocation proposal on Nov. 13. Public meetings to discuss the proposals are set for Oct. 5 in Deer Lodge and Oct. 6 in Shelby. Another meeting on Montana's Hi-line is planned, but the time and location have not been set.

Trail in Yellowstone named after noted dude rancher, guide, conservationist no longer maintained

BRETT FRENCH Of The Billings Gazette Staff | Posted: Thursday, September 15, 2011 12:00 am

http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/wyoming/article_26c1f88b-2a1c-5075-a0f6-36223b07c6f5.html

CALENDAR ITEMS

No entries today.

WEATHER FORECAST

NWS Zone Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park, WY

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 829 AM MDT FRI SEP 16 2011

Today...Numerous rain showers and isolated thunderstorms. Some thunderstorms may produce small hail and heavy rainfall in the morning. Some thunderstorms may produce gusty winds...small hail and heavy rainfall in the afternoon. Highs 54 to 62. Southwest winds around 15 mph in the late morning and afternoon. Chance of precipitation 70 percent.

Tonight...Cloudy. Numerous rain showers and isolated thunderstorms in the evening...then scattered rain showers and snow showers after midnight. Some thunderstorms may produce gusty winds...small hail and heavy rainfall in

the evening. Little or no snow accumulation. Lows 30 to 36. Southwest winds around 15 mph early in the evening becoming southwest around 15 mph after midnight. Chance of precipitation 70 percent.

Saturday...Breezy. Mostly cloudy with scattered rain showers and snow showers in the morning...then partly cloudy with isolated thunderstorms in the afternoon. Some thunderstorms may produce gusty winds in the afternoon. Highs 52 to 58. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph in the late morning and afternoon. Chance of precipitation 30 percent.

SUBMISSIONS SOUGHT

If you have an item or digital picture you think other employees should know about or would like to know about, please send an email to YELL_Public_Affairs@nps.gov.

YNP@Work

A Daily Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Monday, September 19, 2011

ANNOUNCEMENTS

In order to gather the necessary engineering information for two upcoming road reconstruction projects, the Federal Highway Administration will be conducting drilling operations on the Norris to Golden Gate and Dunraven Road segments. This project will involve moving a portable drill platform into position, at various sites, requiring the use of a helicopter or crane and minor tree clearing. Traffic control will be necessary on sites immediately adjacent to the roadway, with 15-minute delays possible. The project will commence this week and continue through mid-October, weather permitting.

For a PDF of the latest park road construction update go to: [P:\Road Updates\Weekly Const Update 2011](#).

The Draft Old Faithful Area Comprehensive Plan/EA is available as a pdf located on the [P:\Old Faithful Comprehensive Plan EA Draft](#). There are also hard copies available in the Comprehensive Planning and Design Office. This document is for INTERNAL distribution ONLY at this time. It will be available to the public in October.

Please utilize the comment template so that we can organize your responses. It is found on the [P:\Old Faithful Comprehensive Plan EA Draft](#) and on the PEPC website. That is located on: [PEPC.nps.gov](#).

Thanks in advance for your assistance in creating this document and for your review.

Due to popular demand, the Yellowstone Research Library's Bookmobile is going to make an extra run this summer. We'll be coming around on Thursday the 22nd so let us know if we can either pick up books or drop them off. Our catalog is available at <http://wyld.state.wy.us/yr/>. Check us out!

Area	Time	Where we'll be
Norris	8-8:30	Housing area
Madison	9:30-10:00	Housing area/District Office
Old Faithful	11:00-11:45	Ranger Station
Grant	12:15 Pickup/Drop-off	Visitor's Center
Fishing Bridge	1:30-2:00	Visitor Center Parking Lot
Canyon	3:00 Pickup/Drop-off	Visitor's Center
Tower	4:00	Ranger's Station



Is your area not on the list? Can you not make it to our times? Give us a call or email us and we'll work to make sure you can get your books.

Did you know: With your library card, you have access to Mango which has over 30 different languages you can learn, including the seasonal favorite, *Pirate* (http://www.mangolanguages.com/try-it.php?course_id=224)

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Representatives of the World Heritage Centre and the International Union for Conservation of Nature will be touring the park this week.

ACTING ASSIGNMENTS / OUT OF THE OFFICE

Brian Suderman is Acting Deputy Chief of Interpretation for Operations and Youth Programs today.

Nick Herring is Acting Chief Ranger through Friday, September 23.

Canyon District Ranger Pat Navaille is out of the office through Friday, September 23.

RECENT PARK NEWS RELEASES

Yellowstone National Park Fire Update

Heart Complex: September 16, 2011 – 3:30 p.m.

<http://www.nps.gov/yell/parknews/11088h.htm>

FIRE UPDATE



There was one new fire was reported in the park this weekend. The Ribbon Fire is a 0.1 acre escaped campfire at backcountry campsite 4R1 along the Ribbon Lake Trail. It was controlled by 2 firefighters, and declared out Saturday at 1500 hours.

There are still five active fires in the Heart Complex, albeit minimally active. Four fires in the complex are being managed for multiple objectives with the priority on firefighter and public safety, and to allow natural processes to occur within the Greater Yellowstone Area. The Pitchstone Fire, whose origin could not be determined, is being managed under a confinement strategy prioritizing public and firefighter safety and commensurate with the values at risk. Until the fire shows increased activity it is being monitored from aircraft in conjunction with the Ouzel fire 11 miles to its west.

Point - 1800 acres. Minimal activity. The Thorofare Trail still has active fire along it and remains closed from the Nine Mile Trailhead to one mile south of the fire area. Smoke impacts along the East Entrance road have been intermittent and minimal.

The National Weather Service in Billings has issued a **Red Flag Warning** for a the Gallatin National Forest – including the areas adjacent to the park – from Noon to 9:00 p.m. today due to low humidity and strong gusty winds accompanying a passing cold front.

http://forecast.weather.gov/showsigwx.php?warnzone=MTZ064&warncounty=MTC067&firewxzone=MTZ123&local_place1=9+Miles+SSW+Livingston+MT&product1=Red+Flag+Warning

IN THE NEWS**Commission eyes expanded fall and spring vehicle access to Yellowstone**

Written by CJ Baker, The Powell Tribune - September 15, 2011 9:00 am

<http://www.powelltribune.com/news/item/8758-commission-eyes-expanded-fall-and-spring-vehicle-access-to-yellowstone>

Yellowstone bison relocations proposed in Montana

MATTHEW BROWN Associated Press | Posted: Thursday, September 15, 2011 6:53 pm

http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/montana/article_795ed65e-dffe-11e0-966d-001cc4c002e0.html

CALENDAR ITEMS

The UNESCO and IUCN representatives touring the park are holding a public listening session Wednesday night in West Yellowstone at the Holiday Inn. The session starts at 6:30 p.m.

WEATHER FORECAST

<http://forecast.weather.gov/MapClick.php?zoneid=WYZ001&TextType=1>

NWS Zone Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park, WY

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 239 AM MDT MON SEP 19 2011

Today...Breezy. Partly cloudy. Isolated rain showers and snow showers in the morning...then isolated thunderstorms in the afternoon. Some thunderstorms may produce gusty winds in the afternoon. Highs 55 to 63. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph in the late morning and afternoon. Chance of precipitation 20 percent.

Tonight...Breezy. Mostly cloudy with isolated thunderstorms in the evening...then partly cloudy with isolated snow showers after midnight. Some thunderstorms may produce gusty winds in the evening. Lows 26 to 32. West winds 15 to 20 mph in the evening. Chance of precipitation 20 percent.

Tuesday...Partly cloudy. Isolated rain showers in the afternoon. Highs 54 to 60. Chance of showers 20 percent.

ERRORS, OMISSIONS & SUBMISSIONS

Any errors you find are entirely our fault and unintentional – like failing to change the day and date on all but the first page of Friday's edition!

We try to “mine” All Employees emails and other sources like Squad Notes for pertinent nuggets to include in this newsletter. Sorry... we don't catch them all.

SO... if you have an item or digital picture you think other employees should know about or would like to know about, please send an email to YELL_Public_Affairs@nps.gov.

YNP@Work

A Daily Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Tuesday, September 20, 2011

ANNOUNCEMENTS

In order to gather the necessary engineering information for two upcoming road reconstruction projects, the Federal Highway Administration will be conducting drilling operations on the Norris to Golden Gate and Dunraven Road segments. This project will involve moving a portable drill platform into position, at various sites, requiring the use of a helicopter or crane and minor tree clearing. Traffic control will be necessary on sites immediately adjacent to the roadway, with 15-minute delays possible. The project will commence this week and continue through mid-October, weather permitting.

For a PDF of the latest park road construction update go to: [P:\Road Updates\Weekly Const Update 2011](#).

The Draft Old Faithful Area Comprehensive Plan/EA is available as a pdf located on the [P:\Old Faithful Comprehensive Plan EA Draft](#). There are also hard copies available in the Comprehensive Planning and Design Office. This document is for INTERNAL distribution ONLY at this time. It will be available to the public in October.

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Representatives of the World Heritage Centre and the International Union for Conservation of Nature will be touring the park this week.

IN THE NEWS

No items today.



ACTING ASSIGNMENTS / OUT OF THE OFFICE

Nick Herring is Acting Chief Ranger through Friday, September 23.

Canyon District Ranger Pat Navaille is out of the office through Friday, September 23.

RECENT PARK NEWS RELEASES

<http://www.nps.gov/yell/parknews/11099.htm>

September 19, 2011

New Westslope Cutthroat Trout Restoration Project For Yellowstone

Yellowstone is taking another step forward this week in efforts to restore native fish in park waters.

Goose Lake is located in the Lower Geyser Basin, along the Fairy Falls Trail south of Fountain Flat Drive.

Decades ago, it and two other nearby lakes were stocked with non-native Rainbow trout. Their presence has contributed to a decline in native trout in park lakes, rivers and streams. Rainbow trout can breed with cutthroat trout and produce hybrid trout which are also considered a non-native species.

As part of Yellowstone's Native Fish Conservation Plan and Environmental Assessment which was approved in May, this week biologists will introduce a fish toxin into the three lakes to remove the non-native Rainbow trout. The project will not impact the nearby Firehole River.

While the chemical Rotenone will be introduced in small quantities, visitors are advised not to swim in or drink from the three lakes now through October 15. Warning signs will be posted at all areas treated with the chemical.

Next year, the park will reintroduce genetically-pure native Westslope cutthroat trout to the three lakes. The long term plan, in addition to restoring this native species to a portion of its native habitat, is for these lakes to provide a brood stock population of the native fish for future restoration efforts.

More information on the park's Native Fish Conservation Plan can be found online at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/projectHome.cfm?projectID=30504>.

FIRE UPDATE

There are still five active fires in the Heart Complex, albeit minimally active. The park's Fire Danger Rating is MODERATE.

CALENDAR ITEMS

The UNESCO and IUCN representatives touring the park are holding a public listening session Wednesday night in West Yellowstone at the Holiday Inn. The session starts at 6:30 p.m.

WEATHER FORECAST

<http://forecast.weather.gov/MapClick.php?zoneid=WYZ001&TextType=1>

NWS Zone Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park, WY

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 212 AM MDT TUE SEP 20 2011

Today...Partly cloudy. Highs 52 to 58.

Tonight...Mostly clear. Lows 26 to 32.

Wednesday...Sunny. Highs 58 to 64.

IN BOX TOO FULL?

We really want to be part of the solution, not part of the problem!

So instead of sending out separate All Employees email announcements... which collectively take up space in all our in-boxes... why not send your announcements to us at [YELL_Public_Affairs @nps.gov](mailto:YELL_Public_Affairs@nps.gov) for inclusion in this newsletter?

And we'd like to know... should we continue sending out News Releases "as they happen"... or are you content to wait until they come out in the next newsletter?

Disclaimer: Any errors you find in this or any other issue are entirely our fault and unintentional!!!

YNP@Work

A Daily Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Wednesday, September 21, 2011

IN THE NEWS

http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/U/US_YELLOWSTONE_GRIZZLY_MAULING_911_RECORDINGS_MTOL-?SITE=VARIT&SECTION=US&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT&CTIME=2011-09-20-16-20-29

Sep 20, 2:20 PM MDT

Couple fleeing possibly triggered grizzly mauling

By MATTHEW BROWN - Associated Press

BILLINGS, Mont. (AP) -- A fatal bear mauling in Yellowstone National Park was possibly triggered by the California victim and his wife screaming and yelling as they ran from an approaching grizzly mother with cubs, according to investigators.

New details in the July 6 mauling emerged Tuesday as authorities released 911 recordings and documents related to the attack on 57-year-old Brian Matayoshi and his wife, Marylyn.

Hikers who reported the attack can be heard on the 911 recording saying they heard screaming and animal noises from the direction of the encounter. A short time later, a lone female voice was heard calling for help.

In the immediate aftermath of the attack, park officials said the Matayoshis responded correctly when they encountered the bear along the park's popular Wapiti Lake Trailhead. But following a two-month investigation, bear researchers and wildlife agents concluded the couple's harried, 173-yard retreat after they encountered the bear may have played a role.

"What possibly began as an attempt by the bear to assess the Matayoshis' activities became a sustained pursuit of them as they fled running and yelling on the trail," the investigation team report said.

The couple was not carrying bear spray, mace-like canisters of pressurized pepper spray that park officials advise hikers to carry for self-defense.

The attack took place about 1 1/2 miles from the park's popular Wapiti Lake picnic ground, where the Matayoshis had set out for a hike at about 8:30 a.m. after arriving in the park a day earlier, according to the investigators' report.

The couple first spied the mother grizzly with her two cubs just after 10 a.m., from a vantage point along the trail. It was the Matayoshis fourth visit to the park, but the first in which they had seen any bears.

As the bears were digging and grazing in an open meadow, the couple stopped and took pictures from a distance of several hundred yards, then hiked on after deciding the animals were not near the trail.

After another half mile, then turned back because they were annoyed by mosquitoes, and soon after saw a large bear off the trail about 100 yards away. They turned and started heading for a patch of nearby trees when Marylyn Matayoshi "saw the bear's head pop up."

"She started coming at us and Brian said 'Run.' We were running down the trail," Marylyn Matayoshi told investigators. She heard her husband yell and turned to see the sow "hit him," with the cubs trailing behind their mother and growling.

After killing the husband, the bear tugged at Marylyn Matayoshi's backpack, then released her and fled. "She walked over to her husband and attempted to use a tourniquet on Brian's leg and heard a long breath escape from Brian," the report said.

She tried to call 911 for help - her cellphone log showed she tried 21 times - but never got through. She started back down the trail several times, but kept turning back out of fear that she would encounter the bears again.

Eventually she walked to the edge of the meadow where the bear charged from and was found by rangers who had been alerted to the attack by other hikers.

Park authorities later decided to let the bear remain free because it had no prior run-ins with humans and was reacting as might be expected to a surprise encounter.

Two other people have been killed by grizzlies in the Northern Rockies this year. That includes a second attack in Yellowstone earlier this month that killed a Michigan man, and a Nevada hunter killed Friday by a wounded bear along the Idaho-Montana border.

The Yellowstone bear that killed the Michigan man remains at large. The bear in Friday's attack was killed by the hunter's companions.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Special Projects paving projects starting Monday, September 26:

- Paving the new dorm parking area at YCC.
- Paving the large parking area directly across from the Power House apartments.
- Paving the top of the hill above the Mammoth campground to the "old" 45th parallel.
- Paving from the High Gardiner River Bridge to Lava Creek.

The specific dates of pavement will vary depending on weather, September 26th through November 19, 2011.

If you are extending a seasonal employee, please e-mail both Barbara Fowler (Telecomm) and Jim Monk (CSS) to prevent expiration of their ID cards/building access and computer access/email. Also please remember that all seasonal ID cards must to be returned to Technology Services at end of season.

Due to popular demand, the Yellowstone Research Library's Bookmobile is going to make an extra run this summer. We'll be coming around tomorrow so let us know if we can either pick up books or drop them off.

In order to gather the necessary engineering information for two upcoming road reconstruction projects, the Federal Highway Administration will be conducting drilling operations on the Norris to Golden Gate and Dunraven Road segments. This project will involve moving a portable drill platform into position, at various sites, requiring the use of a helicopter or crane and minor tree clearing. Traffic control will be necessary on sites immediately adjacent to the roadway, with 15-minute delays possible. The project will commence this week and continue through mid-October, weather permitting.

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Representatives of the World Heritage Centre and the International Union for Conservation of Nature are touring the park this week.

ACTING ASSIGNMENTS / OUT OF THE OFFICE

Holly Long is in charge of Fleet / Special Projects until Monday, September 26 in Randy Baum's absence.

Nick Herring is Acting Chief Ranger through Friday, September 23.

Canyon District Ranger Pat Navaille is out of the office through Friday, September 23.

RECENT PARK NEWS RELEASES

Regarding our news releases... some folks feel they can wait to get the information; others who are more likely to come into regular contact with visitors say they need the releases as they are issued.

So for the time being we'll send the text version of the news release out as it happens, but we will at least keep the titles and links in this newsletter afterwards for a couple of days.

September 20, 2011

Report Released on July Fatal Bear Attack In Yellowstone

<http://www.nps.gov/yell/parknews/11100.htm>

September 19, 2011

New Westslope Cutthroat Trout Restoration Project For Yellowstone

<http://www.nps.gov/yell/parknews/11099.htm>

FIRE UPDATE

There are still five active fires in the Heart Complex, albeit minimally active. The park's Fire Danger Rating is MODERATE.

CALENDAR ITEMS

The UNESCO and IUCN representatives touring the park are holding a public listening session tonight in West Yellowstone at the Holiday Inn. The session starts at 6:30 p.m.

WEATHER FORECAST

<http://forecast.weather.gov/MapClick.php?zoneid=WYZ001&TextType=1>

NWS Zone Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park, WY

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 221 AM MDT WED SEP 21 2011

Today...Sunny. Highs 57 to 65.

Tonight...Clear. Lows 29 to 35.

Thursday...Sunny. Highs 62 to 70.

And now for the REALLY long term:

La Nina may return

That could mean a good snow season, though likely not one like last winter

By Cory Hatch, Jackson Hole News & Guide - September 21, 2011

http://www.jhnewsandguide.com/print.php?art_id=7750&pid=news

IN BOX TOO FULL?

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Disclaimer: Any errors you find in this or any other issue are entirely our fault and unintentional!!!

YNP@Work

A Daily Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Thursday, September 22, 2011

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Human Resources Office will be closed all day today, but will reopen Friday, September 23.

National Public Lands Day is this Saturday. This year's volunteer project is trail restoration on the Howard Eaton Trail near the Upper Terrace Drive area. All entrance fees for the day, including commercial tour entrance fees and transportation entrance fees, will be waived.

There are several Special Projects paving projects which will start as early as Monday, September 26:

- Paving the new dorm parking area at YCC.
- Paving the large parking area directly across from the Power House apartments.
- Paving the top of the hill above the Mammoth campground to the "old" 45th parallel.
- Paving from the High Gardiner River Bridge to Lava Creek.

The specific dates of pavement will vary depending on weather and could run through November 19.

If you are extending a seasonal employee, please e-mail both Barbara Fowler (Telecomm) and Jim Monk (CSS) to prevent expiration of their ID cards/building access and computer access/email. Also please remember that all seasonal ID cards must to be returned to Technology Services at end of season.

Rachel Jacobsen, Acting Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, is in the park for several days. Supt. Wenk and the bison management staff will give her a bison tour and briefing on the issue today.

ACTING ASSIGNMENTS / OUT OF THE OFFICE

Holly Long is charge of Fleet / Special Projects until Monday, September 26 in Randy Baum's absence.

Nick Herring is Acting Chief Ranger through Friday, September 23. Bonnie Schwartz will be Acting Chief Ranger from Saturday, September 24 through Wednesday, September 28.

Canyon District Ranger Pat Navaille is out of the office through Friday, September 23.

IN THE NEWS

House rejects government funding bill as shutdown looms

Conservative Republicans in the House say the spending level is too high, and Democrats refuse to accept cuts to offset FEMA aid to disaster victims.

By Lisa Mascaro, Chicago Tribune Washington Bureau - 4:33 a.m. CDT, September 22, 2011

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/chi-na-government-shutdown-20110922,0,1366037.story>

La Nina may return

That could mean a good snow season, though likely not one like last winter

By Cory Hatch, Jackson Hole News & Guide - September 21, 2011

http://www.jhnewsandguide.com/print.php?art_id=7750&pid=news

Couple fleeing possibly triggered grizzly mauling

By MATTHEW BROWN - Associated Press - Sep 20, 2:20 PM MDT

http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/U/US_YELLOWSTONE_GRIZZLY_MAULING_911_RECORDINGS_MT_OL-?SITE=VARIT&SECTION=US&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT&CTIME=2011-09-20-16-20-29

RECENT PARK NEWS RELEASES

Regarding our news releases... some folks feel they can wait to get the information; others who are more likely to come into regular contact with visitors say they need the releases as they are issued.

So for the time being we'll send the text version of the news release out as it happens, but we will at least keep the titles and links in this newsletter afterwards for a couple of days.

September 20, 2011

Report Released on July Fatal Bear Attack In Yellowstone

<http://www.nps.gov/yell/parknews/11100.htm>

September 19, 2011

New Westslope Cutthroat Trout Restoration Project For Yellowstone

<http://www.nps.gov/yell/parknews/11099.htm>

FIRE UPDATE

There are still five active fires in the Heart Complex, albeit minimally active. The park's Fire Danger Rating is MODERATE.

CALENDAR ITEMS

No items today.

WEATHER FORECAST

<http://forecast.weather.gov/MapClick.php?zoneid=WYZ001&TextType=1>

NWS Zone Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park, WY

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 219 AM MDT THU SEP 22 2011

Today...Sunny. Highs 62 to 70.

Tonight...Mostly clear. Lows 32 to 40.

Friday...Mostly sunny. Highs 65 to 73.

SUBMISSIONS

Instead of sending out separate All Employees email announcements... which collectively take up space in all our in-boxes... why not send your announcements to us at [YELL_Public_Affairs @nps.gov](mailto:YELL_Public_Affairs@nps.gov) for inclusion in this newsletter?

Disclaimer: Any errors you find in this or any other issue are entirely our fault and unintentional!!!

YNP@Work

A Daily Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Friday, September 23, 2011

IN THE NEWS

The Washington Post

Senate likely to reject House-passed spending bill; shutdown still possible

By Rosalind S. Helderman and Paul Kane, Published: September 22 | Updated: Friday, September 23, 8:30 AM

Washington lurched toward another potential government shutdown crisis Friday, as the House approved by a 219-203 vote a GOP-authored short-term funding measure designed to keep the government running through Nov. 18 and Democrats in the Senate immediately vowed to reject the bill.

“We expect a vote fairly quickly,” said Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.) on Friday morning.

In an after-midnight roll call, House Republican leaders persuaded conservatives early Friday morning to support a stop-gap measure nearly identical to one they had rejected just 30 hours earlier. By a narrow margin, 213 Republicans supported the plan, along with six Democrats; 179 Democrats opposed it, joined by 24 Republicans.

The bill, which will keep federal agencies funded through Nov. 18, passed over staunch objections from House Democrats, who opposed a provision that would pair increased funding for disaster relief with a spending cut to a program that makes loans to car companies to encourage energy efficient car production.

But House Speaker John Boehner’s (R-Ohio) victory is likely to be short-lived. Reid said late Thursday that the measure could not pass his chamber, with a vote expected sometime Friday. A Senate defeat would leave Congress at a new standoff.

“It fails to provide the relief that our fellow Americans need as they struggle to rebuild their lives in the wake of floods, wildfires and hurricanes, and it will be rejected by the Senate,” Reid said of the House bill.

Without a resolution, the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s disaster relief fund will run out of money early next week and the rest of the government would be forced to shutdown Oct. 1.

House leaders contend that the Senate would be responsible for blocking desperately needed disaster dollars from flowing to FEMA if they reject their bill.

“You saw the House act,” said House Majority Leader Eric Cantor (R-Va.) as he left the Capitol early Friday morning. “We are intending that the money gets to FEMA and to disaster victims as they need it.”

“I think Harry Reid’s political ploy is not going to work,” Cantor continued, adding that blame for FEMA funding drying up if the Senate rejects the bill would fall on Senate Democrats. “I guess Harry Reid will have to bear the burden of denying disaster victims the money they need.”

Friday’s House vote marked a reversal of fortunes for Boehner, who after losing the initial Wednesday vote on the House spending resolution found himself roaming the contours of a familiar dilemma — capitulate to fiscal hawks in his own party who want to spend less, or compromise with Democrats who want to spend more.

Instead, Boehner found another route: He huddled all day and night Thursday with his rank-and-file, warning them he would give them one more chance to approve the bill or he would be forced to agree to drop the offsetting cut, as Democrats had demanded.

In addition, after a 90-minute meeting with the House GOP Conference on Thursday afternoon, the leadership agreed to an additional, largely symbolic cut by striking \$100 million from a loan program that funded the bankrupt solar panel manufacturer Solyndra. That company, which received the loan guarantees through the Obama administration's 2009 stimulus legislation, has become a favorite target for Republicans in their critique of the White House's handling of the economy.

As for the swipe at the program that had funded Solyndra, Rep. David Dreier (R-Calif.) told colleagues on the House floor late Thursday that the goal was to "ensure that hard-earned dollars of the American people are not wasted in the way that we have seen" with the company.

Rep. Louise M. Slaughter (D-N.Y.) countered that the measure had hardly changed after a day of wrangling and still made "unacceptable cuts to an essential manufacturing jobs program to pay for equally essential disaster relief."

The blow-up over what Boehner had once hoped would be a routine matter — a bill to merely keep government operating until Nov. 18 — illustrated what has become a central reality for the Republican speaker: He controls the House majority only on paper.

On any given vote, he must contend with a sizable bloc of his own members willing to buck his leadership in the name of shrinking government.

This leaves him in the uncomfortable position of having to consider alliances with Democrats — and facing negotiating those alliances from a position of weakness.

Despite the embarrassing loss on Wednesday's vote, Republicans defended the decision to hold the vote even though they realized it was likely to fail. The GOP leadership wanted to demonstrate to the recalcitrant conservatives that their actions had real consequences. One senior Republican adviser called the process "an educational experience."

"I've always believed in allowing the House to work its will. I understood what the risk was yesterday. But why not put the bill on the floor and let the members speak? And they did," Boehner said Thursday morning at his weekly press briefing.

According to GOP lawmakers and aides, House Majority Whip Kevin McCarthy (R-Calif.) had reported to Boehner and Cantor that a few dozen Republicans would oppose the legislation, mostly because they thought its spending levels were too far above those they voted for in the spring when they approved the 2012 budget originally proposed by House Budget Committee Chairman Paul Ryan (R-Wis.).

Boehner's leadership team knew that it would need Democratic votes to approve the plan, but only by Wednesday afternoon did they fully understand that House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) and House Minority Whip Steny H. Hoyer (D-Md.) were whipping their caucus to oppose the measure and make Boehner deliver nearly all Republican votes for passage. Rather than pulling the bill from the floor, Boehner told his deputies to hold the vote.

The extraordinary effort required to pass such a basic bill suggests even bigger battles later in the fall on potential blockbuster deficit-reduction plans.

The stopgap spending bill is necessary because the House and Senate have stalemated over how to fund government through the whole year. Without a stopgap in place to buy time for further negotiations, the government will shut down at month's end.

House leaders had hoped to pass the short-term funding bill without the strife that had characterized recent debates, which they knew would erode financial markets' confidence and spark further disgust among voters. They would do it by agreeing to set spending in the bill at a rate of \$1.043 trillion for the year, the amount set in the rancorous August deal to raise the nation's debt ceiling.

But that plan ran headlong into the political realities of their divided chamber — as well as a congressional calendar that provides for a week-long recess starting Friday so that Jewish lawmakers can observe their holidays next week.

Democrats, stung by accusations that they had made too many concessions in the debt fight during the summer, stood unified against the measure over a Republican decision to pair \$3.65 billion in funding for disaster relief with a \$1.5 billion spending cut to the the Advanced Technology Vehicle Manufacturing program, which offers loans to car companies to encourage the production of energy-efficient cars. That particular cut was anathema to many Democrats, who argued that the loan program has generated tens of thousands of jobs.

Democrats relished the prospect that their unified opposition forced Boehner to publicly struggle.

"In the House, the majority controls all the mechanisms," said Rep. Anna G. Eshoo (D-Calif.). "You'd better be able to produce the votes. You just cant go willy-nilly to the floor and then say, 'Well, oopsy.'"

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CORRECTION: If you are extending a seasonal employee, please e-mail both Barbara Fowler (Telecomm) and ["YELL Computer Support"](#) to prevent expiration of their ID cards/building access and computer access/email. Also please remember that all seasonal ID cards must to be returned to Technology Services at end of season.

National Public Lands Day is this Saturday. This year's volunteer project is trail restoration on the Howard Eaton Trail near the Upper Terrace Drive area. All entrance fees for the day, including commercial tour entrance fees and transportation entrance fees, will be waived.

There are several Special Projects paving projects which will start as early as Monday, September 26:

- Paving the new dorm parking area at YCC.
- Paving the large parking area directly across from the Power House apartments.
- Paving the top of the hill above the Mammoth campground to the "old" 45th parallel.
- Paving from the High Gardiner River Bridge to Lava Creek.

The specific dates of pavement will vary depending on weather and could run through November 19.

Rachel Jacobsen, Acting Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, is in the park.

ACTING ASSIGNMENTS / OUT OF THE OFFICE

Holly Long is in charge of Fleet / Special Projects until Monday, September 26 in Randy Baum's absence.

Nick Herring is Acting Chief Ranger today. Bonnie Schwartz will be Acting Chief Ranger from Saturday, September 24 through Wednesday, September 28.

Canyon District Ranger Pat Navaille is out of the office today.

RECENT PARK NEWS RELEASES

September 22, 2011

Yellowstone Seeks Comments For Biscuit Basin Trail Project

<http://www.nps.gov/yell/parknews/11101.htm>

FIRE UPDATE

The park's Fire Danger Rating is MODERATE. Little activity has been reported in recent days.

CALENDAR ITEMS

No items today.

WEATHER FORECAST

<http://forecast.weather.gov/MapClick.php?zoneid=WYZ001&TextType=1>

NWS Zone Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park, WY

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 147 AM MDT FRI SEP 23 2011



Fall officially began at 3:04 a.m. MDT

Today...Mostly sunny. Highs 65 to 73.

Tonight...Mostly clear. Lows 32 to 40.

Saturday...Mostly sunny. Highs 67 to 75.

SUBMISSIONS

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YNP@Work

A Daily Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Monday, September 26, 2011

IN THE NEWS

The Los Angeles Times

Senate rejects House funding bill; shutdown looms, September 23, 2011

The Senate Friday rejected the GOP-led House's bill to avert a government shutdown, intensifying a partisan standoff that many in Congress hoped to avoid. The vote was 59-36.

Democrats in the Senate, who control the majority, oppose Republican efforts to rollback of green energy programs to pay for aid for victims of Hurricane Irene and other disasters. They say disaster aid, usually a bipartisan issue, should not require cuts elsewhere--especially to programs creating green jobs--as the GOP majority in the House now demands.

The two sides are racing the clock, as the Federal Emergency Management Agency is expected to run out of disaster money Monday.

Congress had planned to recess next week for the Jewish holiday.

House Speaker John A. Boehner said Friday acknowledged the difficulty he faced after his GOP majority pressed for steeper cuts. He indicated that a compromise with the Senate was not within reach.

"There wasn't much progress made," Boehner said after conferring with Sen. Harry Reid (D-Nev.), the majority leader.

For the second time this year, the partisan warfare risks a government risks a shutdown. The fiscal year ends next weekend.

The House narrowly passed its bill early Friday, in a post-midnight vote only after sweetening the legislation to attract conservatives. An earlier version was shot down this week after conservatives said it did not cut enough.

Republicans won votes by targeting a Department of Energy account used to support renewable energy firms--including Solyndra, the company with White House ties that drew controversy after receiving a \$535 million loan guarantee the filing for bankruptcy.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tonight at 7 p.m. is the 9th Annual Fall Photo Festival in the Community Room of the West Yellowstone Visitor Information Center. Amateur and professional photographers alike are again being invited to share some of their favorite photos taken in and around Yellowstone. This event is co-sponsored by the National Park Service and the Grizzly and Wolf Discovery Center. The festival is not a contest and no prizes are awarded, just a great venue to share some great photographs! Contact Rich Jehle at x2840 for more info.

Dr. P.J. White was officially appointed Chief of Aquatic and Wildlife Resources for the Yellowstone Center for Resources. P.J. has been acting in this position for quite some time, and he has provided strong leadership to a diverse team of professional ecologists working on high profile management challenges. His dedication to priority science and resource management projects has furthered the Park's overall success in restoring and conserving wildlife and fish populations. P.J. has worked tirelessly to design and implement applied scientific studies, resulting in numerous peer-reviewed scientific articles and book chapters that have directly influenced our management of animals in the Park. In recognition of his exceptional, collaborative work in the field of bison management, P.J. was the recipient of the NPS' 2010 award for natural resource management. Congrats P.J.!

National Public Lands Day was Saturday. Volunteers performed trail restoration on the Howard Eaton Trail near the Upper Terrace Drive area. All entrance fees for the day, including commercial tour entrance fees and transportation entrance fees, were waived, and wow, what a beautiful weekend it was!!

Flu Shots available at Mammoth Clinic Now! No appointment necessary. Clinic hours are 8:30 to 5; 7 days per week until September 30th. Winter hours are 8:30 to 5 Monday through Thursday and 8:30 to 1 on Fridays. Cost is \$25.

REMINDER: If you are extending a seasonal employee, please e-mail both Barbara Fowler (Telecomm) and "YELL Computer Support" to prevent expiration of their ID cards/building access and computer access/email. Also please remember that all seasonal ID cards must to be returned to Technology Services at end of season.

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Bonnie Schwartz will be Acting Chief Ranger through Wednesday, September 28.

RECENT PARK NEWS RELEASES

September 22, 2011

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<http://www.nps.gov/yell/parknews/11101.htm>

FIRE UPDATE

Due to a recent warming and drying trend, Fire Danger level in the park is now **HIGH**. However, little activity has been reported on fires burning in the park in recent days.

CALENDAR ITEMS

No items today.

WEATHER FORECAST

<http://forecast.weather.gov/MapClick.php?zoneid=WYZ001&TextType=1>

NWS Zone Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park, WY

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 147 AM MDT FRI SEP 23 2011

Today...Partly cloudy. Isolated rain showers in the morning...then occasional rain showers in the afternoon. Highs 59 to 65. Southwest winds around 15 mph late in the afternoon. Chance of showers 20 percent.

Tonight...Partly cloudy. Lows 30 to 36. Southwest winds around 15 mph early in the evening.

Tuesday...Partly cloudy. Highs 60 to 68. Southwest winds around 15 mph in the afternoon.

THANKS FOR THE FEEDBACK!

We appreciate all of you who have taken time to share your thoughts about our new newsletter.

Some of your suggestions we can act upon in the short-term; others pose a bit of a challenge!

While we would like to publish a fresh, small daily newspaper each day, that is not feasible. However, we can cut and paste in items from emails, squad notes, or material we can quickly find online.

We don't expect everyone to have the time or opportunity to read this newsletter every day. We also don't expect you to go back and review past issues. That's why we repeat most items for two or three days, and keep the

“Acting” information in as long as it is current. Honestly, we expect you to skim this newsletter and focus on items that are new to you and that you find interesting or useful.

Some have asked for a way to access back issues. We’re now including a link to a folder on the “P:” drive where the newsletters will be saved after they are published.

We have heard a few concerns about file size.

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Our hope is that by providing “one stop shopping” for employee information, you’ll see fewer All Employee emails which will actually result in fewer bytes filling your in-box each day!

We do recognize that some of you need information as-it-happens, rather than waiting for the next weekday. While we may repeat those items for convenience in the newsletter, you can still expect to receive some all-employees emails and park news releases as they are issued.

If you see things missing which you think should be included, it is probably because we don’t know they are occurring! So if you see something unusual or have a unique wildlife sighting, please send us an email or digital image and we would be happy to include your item. Think of things your colleagues might want to know or see that they don’t have access to – such as where the best place is in the park to see bears or wolves. If you’re “in-the-know,” – please share with the rest of us!!

Ultimately, this newsletter will succeed or fail only if you contribute and only if most of you find it useful. So as they used to day in the early days of television.... “keep those cards and letters coming!”

- *Your editors at Public Affairs*

SUBMISSIONS

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YNP@Work

A Daily Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Tuesday, September 27, 2011

IN THE NEWS

Senate leaders announce bipartisan agreement to avert government shutdown

By Paul Kane and Rosalind S. Helderman - The Washington Post

Senate leaders agreed to a deal Monday evening that is almost certain to avert a federal government shutdown, a prospect that had unexpectedly arisen when congressional leaders deadlocked over disaster relief funding. (Full article available at http://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2011/09/26/gIQADvs5zK_story.html)

Government Shutdown Avoided After Senate Deal: <http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0911/64480.html>

Fatal grizzly attacks trigger policy review - Deaths at Yellowstone are park's first since '86

Yellowstone National Park officials say they'll review park policies following two fatal grizzly attacks this summer.

One incident involved a solo hiker, John Wallace, 59, of Michigan, who died Aug. 25 of injuries after being mauled. His body was discovered the next day.

The other involved 57-year-old Brian Matayoshi, of California, who died in July after he was attacked by a female grizzly with two cubs. His wife, who was hiking with him, was unharmed.

Both attacks occurred in areas known as grizzly habitat. Rangers encourage park visitors to carry bear spray and to hike in groups of three or more.

The deaths were the first from grizzly attacks in Yellowstone since 1986, said Al Nash, park spokesman, who noted that the odds of being injured by a bear in Yellowstone are extremely low – about 1 in 3 million.

However, he said, “I expect us to have an in-depth and robust discussion about our visitor safety in light of these two incidents.”

Parks Canada did the same kind of soul-searching 12 years ago after a series of close calls in Banff National Park. No one was killed or injured, but park rangers were worried about an escalating number of grizzly incidents on popular hiking trails, said Steve Michel, a human-wildlife conflict specialist in Banff.

“Some of these trails attract thousands of visitors per day,” Michel said.

For several years, selected trails were closed during the summer, which made park visitors unhappy. So instead, Banff National Park began requiring hikers to travel in tight-knit groups at Lake Moraine and two other problematic areas – the Bryant Creek and Lake Winnewanka areas at the park's eastern edge. In addition to being

popular with hikers, the locations contain grouse berries and buffalo berries that provide an important food source for bears.

At first, people were required to hike in groups of six. The group size was later revised to a minimum of four. Hikers also must carry bear spray on the Winnewanka trail.

The group size is based on research by Stephen Herrero, a professor emeritus at the University of Calgary, Alberta. In reviewing a century's worth of data on grizzly attacks in North American parks, Herrero couldn't find a single instance of a group of six being attacked. The majority of attacks involved solo hikers or groups of two.

"Smaller parties generally make less noise to alert a grizzly of their presence at a distance," Herrero wrote in his book, "Bear Attacks: Their Causes and Avoidance." Smaller groups are also less likely to intimidate a grizzly, he said.

Since Banff adopted the group hiking policy, Michel said the number of reported human-bear encounters has dropped significantly. That's good for bears as well as people, he said.

About 60 grizzlies live in Banff National Park. The park's female grizzlies have low reproductive rates, giving birth about once every five years. While coastal grizzlies bulk up on salmon, Banff bears are 80 percent vegetarian and live in a harsh environment dominated by rocks and ice, said Omar McDadi, park spokesman.

Hikers' compliance with the requirements generally has been good, Michel said, though park officials issued 11 citations this year to people who failed to obey group-size rules or who didn't carry bear spray. Fines have ranged from \$250 to \$500. The maximum penalty for a first-time offender is \$25,000.

Yellowstone's Nash endorses the safety-in-numbers concept but said it's unclear whether a larger group size would have prevented the two fatalities. In the case of Matayoshi, park officials say the grizzly attack might have been triggered by the couple fleeing down the trail. Events leading up to Wallace's death remain a mystery.

"Because there were no eyewitnesses to this attack, we're never going to know the specifics," Nash said.

Yellowstone Insider – September 24, 2011

Yellowstone Visitation Remains Strong

<http://www.yellowstoneinsider.com/20110924835/news/articles/yellowstone-attendance-remains-strong.php>

West Yellowstone News – September 23, 2011

Yellowstone Buses Return to Their Roots

http://www.westyellowstonenews.com/news/article_47d5feb8-e62b-11e0-855e-001cc4c03286.html

NRDC Switchboard – September 23, 2011 (Commentary)

Yellowstone Grizzly Bear Numbers: How Relevant Are They?

http://switchboard.nrdc.org/blogs/lwillcox/yellowstone_grizzly_bear_numbe.html

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Employee Safety Committee News: Of the 51 safety incentive program entries received this year, 14 were nominations for individual safety champions who exhibited exemplary safe performance in regards to safe work practices, 4 entries identified hazards and the actions that made these situations safe for visitors and employees, and 30 individuals were given "on-the-spot" awards for safe behaviors. The Committees' guidance for each award came from the 7 critical individual and team skills identified in Operational Leadership. Prior to the September safety meeting, 3 entries were drawn at random from each category for a cash award. Congratulations to this year's winners:

- On-the-Spot awards, Electrician Shawn Morrison \$250.
 - Mid-Level awards, Dispatcher Peter Schmidt \$500.
 - High-Level awards, Mark Vallie from the Maintenance Division \$750.
-

National Public Lands Day was Saturday. Volunteers performed trail restoration on the Howard Eaton Trail near the Upper Terrace Drive area. All entrance fees for the day, including commercial tour entrance fees and transportation entrance fees, were waived, and wow, what a beautiful weekend it was!! Here's some photos to prove it:



2012 Albright-Wirth Grant Program Launch

Applications are now being accepted for the 2012 Albright-Wirth Grant Program (AWGP) beginning September 26, 2011 through October 28, 2011.

The Albright-Wirth Grant Program administered by the WASO Learning and Development and funded by the National Park Foundation is a developmental program that awards grants to NPS employees (individuals and

groups of three or more) to advance career goals or individual development. A supervisory endorsement/approval is required. Applicants are advised to review AWGP information that addresses eligibility, grant funding, and the grant selection process that is available at <http://share.nps.gov/awg>. Applicants are encouraged to think out of the box in using their creativity, resourcefulness and innovation to make career-enhancing dreams a reality. A 2011 Albright- Wirth Grant Program (AWGP) recipient award summary is also available on the 2012 AWGP site to review the 34 AWGP recipients who received grants in FY2011.

NPS employees are encouraged to apply by submitting a grant application and supervisory endorsement. You are limited to 2500 characters per question category and funding can be used up to the end of FY 2012.

The AWG program has awarded grants to NPS employees to:

- Learn a new trade
- Publish a research
- Detail/shadow/or be mentored
- Pursue college degrees
- Expand partnerships
- Change career paths
- Pursue Self-Improvement
- Build websites
- Support a detail
- Conduct research
- Develop leadership skills

Questions should be directed to Albright-Wirth Grant manager, Lonnie Lowe (lonnie_lowe@nps.gov, 202-354-1487).

- - - - -

Flu Shots available at Mammoth Clinic Now! No appointment necessary. Clinic hours are 8:30 to 5; 7 days per week until September 30th. Winter hours are 8:30 to 5 Monday through Thursday and 8:30 to 1 on Fridays. Cost is \$25.

- - - - -

Underground Utility Locates: For the week of September 26, call Sean x2072, Sally, x2439, Jerry x2433 or Bret at x2070, or stop in at Telecom to initiate an underground utility locate.

- - - - -

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- Paving from the High Gardiner River Bridge to Lava Creek.

The specific dates of pavement projects will vary depending on weather and could run through November 19.

ACTING ASSIGNMENTS / OUT OF THE OFFICE

Bonnie Schwartz will be Acting Chief Ranger through Wednesday, September 28.

Dan Hottle is Acting Public Affairs Chief through Friday, September 30 – Linda Miller is available, too!

FIRE UPDATE

A new wildland fire start (unnamed and undetermined management strategy as of press time) was spotted 4 miles west of Shoshone Lake on Sunday, and confirmed Monday. Stay tuned for an update from the Fire Cache.

Due to a recent warming and drying trend, Fire Danger level in the park is now **HIGH**, with recurring dips into **VERY HIGH** with the right conditions.

CALENDAR ITEMS

No items today.

WEATHER FORECAST

Due to unseasonably warm temperatures, low humidity, and gusty winds, the National Weather Service has issued a **RED FLAG WARNING** for the Gallatin National Forest including those areas adjacent to the park

<http://forecast.weather.gov/wwamap/wwatxtget.php?cwa=byz&wwa=red%20flag%20warning>

<http://forecast.weather.gov/MapClick.php?zoneid=WYZ001&TextType=1>

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Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 219 AM MDT TUE SEP 27 2011

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Tonight...Mostly clear. Lows 32 to 38. Southwest winds around 15 mph early in the evening.

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- Your editors at Public Affairs

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YNP@Work

A Daily Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Wednesday, September 28, 2011

Need a Back Issue of YNP@Work? Click Here: [Back Issues](#)

IN THE NEWS

7 bears captured in Yellowstone mauling probe, but no firm links yet to attack on Michigan man

Matt Brown, Associated Press
September 27, 2011

BILLINGS, Mont. (AP) -- Seven grizzly bears have been captured near the scene of a fatal mauling of a Michigan hiker in Yellowstone National Park, but none has been linked definitively to the attack, park officials said Tuesday.

Superintendent Dan Wenk said DNA analysis continues on evidence gathered from the park's Hayden Valley, where 59-year-old John Wallace was killed during a solo hike Aug. 25. Other hikers discovered Wallace's body a day later.

There were no witnesses to the attack, and a park official indicated Tuesday that efforts to unravel what happened have been complicated by the poor condition of some of the DNA samples collected.

Those samples yielded inconclusive laboratory results that could make it more difficult to connect the attack to an individual bear, said Yellowstone bear biologist Kerry Gunther.

Based on evidence including bear tracks, investigators estimate seven bears were in the area around the time of the attack. Two bison carcasses found in the vicinity of the mauling scene - one about 150 yards away and one a mile away - had drawn multiple bears to the area.

Yet so far there's no evidence to say any of those bears at the scene were among the grizzlies captured in the month since the attack.

The seven captured bears were fitted with radio collars and released so they can be recaptured later if necessary.

"All we have is pieces. We just don't know how they fit yet," Wenk said. "There were multiple bears in the area of Mr. Wallace. We'll never know which bears caused the fatality, which bears were investigating the activities, which bears were there two days before or two days after."

Park officials previously said they would kill the bear responsible for Wallace's death if it can be found, but acknowledge that may prove impossible. On Tuesday, Wenk said park officials will consider killing any bear that can be linked to the scene and also has a history of run-ins with humans.

"We're going to have to make all those decisions individually," he added.

Wallace's death followed the July killing of a California man that marked Yellowstone's first fatal grizzly mauling in a quarter-century.

Following that attack, Yellowstone officials decided not to remove the attacking bear because it was a sow with cubs that previously had not caused problems. The sow was said to be responding naturally to a surprise encounter.

New York Times – September 27, 2011

How Climate Change Could Hurt Yellowstone National Park

<http://green.blogs.nytimes.com/2011/09/27/how-climate-change-could-hurt-yellowstone-national-park/>

Bozeman Chronicle – September 28, 2011

Study: Yellowstone region records hottest decade ever, on pace for disastrous warming effects by the end of the century

http://www.bozemandailychronicle.com/news/environment/article_81dcc20c-e966-11e0-9cbb-001cc4c03286.html

Billings Gazette – September 27, 2011

New study predicts warmer Yellowstone if climate change isn't slowed

http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/wyoming/article_cfe152b8-5e18-5932-8941-ceaa176b982a.html

National Parks Traveler – September 28, 2011

Westslope Cutthroat Trout Coming Back to Yellowstone National Park

<http://www.nationalparkstraveler.com/2011/09/westslope-cutthroat-trout-coming-back-yellowstone-national-park8804>

ANNOUNCEMENTS

There are lots of seasonal closures happening in the park over the next few weeks! We'll keep a running tab here each day.

2011 ROAD & FACILITY CLOSINGS		
SEPTEMBER 29: Canyon General Store		
OCTOBER 1	OCTOBER 2	OCTOBER 3
FB VC	Grant lodging & main restaurant	Fishing Bridge General Store
GV VC	Lake Lodge & Cabins	Grant Village Mini Store

Madison VC	Lake Lodge Cafeteria	Old Faithful Clinic
Norris VC	Lodge Creek Cabins	Old Faithful Lower General Store
West Thumb VC	Old Faithful Lodge Gift Shop & Bake Shop	
SCHEDULE CHANGES		
OCTOBER 1		
Al bright VC	From 8-7 to 9-5	
Old Faithful VEC	From 8-8 to 9-5	
Canyon VEC	From 8-6 to 9-5	
Mammoth Clinic	From 8:30-5 / 7 days a week To 8:30-5 Mon-Thurs; and 8:30 -1:00 on Friday	

INTERP: Bob Fuhrmann officially takes over as the parkwide Volunteer Coordinator this week. Please send or email your FY11 volunteer hours logs to Bob no later than October 6. FYI - new Volunteer Agreements are required for any volunteer/SCA who worked in FY11, but is still working as of October 1.

LOTUS NOTES USERS: If your last name starts with A-K, and you are a Lotus Notes Client User (notes is installed on your machine and you do not have to use web mail) you may encounter problems with your mail on Monday, October 3rd. Users with lastname A-K are being moved to a new email server over the weekend. If notes is not working properly for you on Monday, please call and we will help you point your mail to the new server.

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EAGALA (EAP) DEMONSTRATION being held October 1 at 5pm at the Gardiner Rodeo Grounds.

The EAGALA Model of Equine Assisted Therapy is unique because it utilizes a team approach (a Mental Health Professional and Equine Specialist) and focuses on creative ground-based, horse-centered activities designed to address specific treatment goals, producing spectacular results. EAP is used for a behavioral issues, mood disorders (i.e., bipolar, depression), anxiety disorders; including PTSD, relationship problems and communication challenges and more.

For More Information call Chris Farrar @ 223-9190.

2012 Albright-Wirth Grant Program Launch

Applications are now being accepted for the 2012 Albright-Wirth Grant Program (AWGP) beginning September 26, 2011 through October 28, 2011.

The Albright-Wirth Grant Program administered by the WASO Learning and Development and funded by the National Park Foundation is a developmental program that awards grants to NPS employees (individuals and groups of three or more) to advance career goals or individual development. A supervisory endorsement/approval is required. Applicants are advised to review AWGP information that addresses eligibility, grant funding, and the grant selection process that is available at <http://share.nps.gov/awg>. Applicants are encouraged to think out of the box in using their creativity, resourcefulness and innovation to make career-enhancing dreams a reality. A 2011 Albright- Wirth Grant Program (AWGP) recipient award summary is also available on the 2012 AWGP site to review the 34 AWGP recipients who received grants in FY2011.

NPS employees are encouraged to apply by submitting a grant application and supervisory endorsement. You are limited to 2500 characters per question category and funding can be used up to the end of FY 2012.

The AWG program has awarded grants to NPS employees to:

- Learn a new trade
- Publish a research
- Detail/shadow/or be mentored
- Pursue college degrees
- Expand partnerships
- Change career paths
- Pursue Self-Improvement
- Build websites
- Support a detail
- Conduct research
- Develop leadership skills

Questions should be directed to Albright-Wirth Grant manager, Lonnie Lowe (lonnie_lowe@nps.gov, 202-354-1487).

Flu Shots available at Mammoth Clinic Now! No appointment necessary. Clinic hours are 8:30 to 5; 7 days per week until September 30th. Winter hours are 8:30 to 5 Monday through Thursday and 8:30 to 1 on Fridays. Cost is \$25.

Underground Utility Locates: For the week of September 26, call Sean x2072, Sally, x2439, Jerry x2433 or Bret at x2070, or stop in at Telecom to initiate an underground utility locate.

There are several Special Projects **paving projects** planned, some of which started Monday:

- Paving the new dorm parking area at YCC.
- Paving the large parking area directly across from the Power House apartments.
- Paving the top of the hill above the Mammoth campground to the "old" 45th parallel.
- Paving from the High Gardiner River Bridge to Lava Creek.

The specific dates of pavement projects will vary depending on weather and could run through November 19.

ACTING ASSIGNMENTS / OUT OF THE OFFICE

Bonnie Schwartz will be Acting Chief Ranger through today.

Dan Hottle is Acting Public Affairs Chief through Friday, September 30 – Linda Miller is available, too!

FIRE UPDATE

Click here for the latest Fire News Update:

<http://www.nps.gov/yell/parknews/11088i.htm>

Due to a recent warming and drying trend, Fire Danger level in the park is now **HIGH**, with recurring dips into **VERY HIGH** with the right conditions.

CALENDAR ITEMS

No items today.

WEATHER FORECAST

RED FLAG WARNING IN EFFECT FROM NOON TODAY TO 9 PM MDT THIS EVENING FOR LOW HUMIDITIES AND STRONG GUSTY NORTHWEST WINDS FOR PARTS OF SOUTHEAST MONTANA AND PARTS OF NORTHWEST SOUTH DAKOTA...

<http://forecast.weather.gov/wwamap/wwatxtget.php?cwa=byz&wwa=red%20flag%20warning>

<http://forecast.weather.gov/MapClick.php?zoneid=WYZ001&TextType=1>

NWS Zone Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park, WY

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 818 AM MDT WED SEP 28 2011

Rest Of Today...Mostly sunny early in the morning then becoming partly cloudy. Highs 62 to 68. Southwest winds around 15 mph in the afternoon.

Tonight...Partly cloudy in the evening then clearing. Lows 30 to 36.

Thursday...Mostly sunny. Highs 64 to 70. Southwest winds around 15 mph late in the afternoon.

THANKS FOR THE FEEDBACK!

We appreciate all of you who have taken time to share your thoughts about our new newsletter.

Some of your suggestions we can act upon in the short-term; others pose a bit of a challenge!

While we would like to publish a fresh, small daily newspaper each day, that is not feasible. However, we can cut and paste in items from emails, squad notes, or material we can quickly find online.

We don't expect everyone to have the time or opportunity to read this newsletter every day. We also don't expect you to go back and review past issues. That's why we repeat most items for two or three days, and keep the "Acting" information in as long as it is current. Honestly, we expect you to skim this newsletter and focus on items that are new to you and that you find interesting or useful.

Some have asked for a way to access back issues. We're now including a link to a folder on the "P:" drive where the newsletters will be saved after they are published.

We have heard a few concerns about file size.

Most of the issues have been about 4 pages in length, with a size of about 15,000 bytes per page. The file size does get bigger when we include a digital still image.

Our hope is that by providing "one stop shopping" for employee information, you'll see fewer All Employee emails which will actually result in fewer bytes filling your in-box each day!

We do recognize that some of you need information as-it-happens, rather than waiting for the next weekday. While we may repeat those items for convenience in the newsletter, you can still expect to receive some all-employees emails and park news releases as they are issued.

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- *Your editors at Public Affairs*

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IN THE NEWS

Yellowstone had 'successful' summer after slow start

Mark Heinz, Cody Enterprise
September 28, 2011

Despite year-to-date traffic being down 16 percent at the east gate, Yellowstone Park considers this summer season to be a success, said park spokesman Al Nash.

"The start of the year was certainly not conducive to visitation," he said.

Dreary weather dominated May and persisted through June; Sylvan Pass had to be closed because of snow and rock slides.

"But when you look at how visitation increased over the recent months, you can see we've had a strong summer," Nash said.

He also noted that September has been becoming a stronger month for Yellowstone in recent years.

"It didn't used to be that September was a big month for us, but it is becoming one," he said. "People are discovering that September typically has good weather, and good access throughout the park. May, on the other hand, can be a challenge, especially for those interested in backcountry access.

Recreational visitors for the summer months totaled 2,346,424, compared to 2,507,463 in 2010 and 2,297,342 during summer 2009.

Year-to-date, Yellowstone had 2,653,832 visitors, compared to 2,866,401 in 2010 and 2,654,378 during the first eight months of 2009.

At the East Entrance, total monthly visitors (recreational and non-recreational) were down about 12 percent. There were 101,997 visitors at the east gate during August, compared to 115,478 last August.

Year-to-date, traffic through the east gate is down about 16 percent. A total of 318,262 visitors passed through the gate during the first eight months of 2011, compared to 376,953 during the same period last year.

Yellowstone grizzlies captured in park's death probe (w/video)

(THE ASSOCIATED PRESS via HUFFINGTON POST progressive news/commentary blog [NY/DC])
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2011/09/27/bears-captured-yellowstone-mauling_n_983881.html

Yellowstone park still in search of 'guilty' grizz

(CODY [WY] ENTERPRISE)
http://www.codyenterprise.com/news/local/article_f5694512-ea22-11e0-886c-001cc4c03286.html

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There are lots of seasonal closures happening in the park over the next few weeks! We'll keep a running tab here each day.

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September 30 (end of day)		
Fishing Bridge Visitor Center	OCTOBER 2	OCTOBER 3
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Say goodbye to Linda Mazzu!

Friday, September 30, 6:00 - 9:00 PM - Potluck @ Tim & Charissa Reid's Home - Located on Olson Lane about 3 miles out of town, just past McConnell Fishing Access. Look for a sign with a fish (rainbow trout?) on a blue background marking the lane. Please bring a dish to share!

Thursday, October 6, 3:00 - 5:00 PM - Superintendent's Conference Room - Ice Cream Social - please bring your own bowl, spoon, and funny stories!

EAGALA (EAP) DEMONSTRATION being held October 1 at 5pm at the Gardiner Rodeo Grounds.

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YCR Happenings:

- Goose Lake Chain fish restoration: This past week the fisheries program treated the Goose Lake chain of lakes with the fish toxin, rotenone, to remove non-native rainbow trout. The operations were conducted as planned and initial indications are that the treatments were successful in removing all the rainbow trout without any unintended impacts. In 2012 the lakes will be restocked with westslope cutthroat trout to create a unique, highly accessible fishery for visitors and to serve as a brood (egg) source for future restoration efforts by NPS and our partners. The fisheries crew would like to thank the Wilderness MRA Committee for helping design efficient operations, the Yellowstone Helitack Group for coordinating helicopter support, and Dr. Mark Buktenica, Aquatic Ecologist from Crater Lake NP, for his help throughout the week.
-

INTERP by the Numbers:

- Visitor center attendance for the week September 18 - 24 totaled 108,559, just slightly below the 2010 count for the same period. Canyon, Fishing Bridge, and Grant Visitor Centers showed attendance above last year's levels, while Albright, West Yellowstone, Norris Geyser Basin Museum, and Madison Information Station were near last year's attendance figures. Old Faithful VEC and the Museum of the National Park Ranger tallied slightly lower figures for the week.
 - Ranger-led programs were conducted 282 times, with 10,103 park visitors participating on walks, talks, hikes, and programs. Informal or roving educational contacts were made with 14,071 visitors, and another 14,000 visitors received resource warnings. Films are shown in Albright, Old Faithful, Canyon, and Grant VCs, and at the Museum of the National Park Ranger, and a total of 12,353 visitors viewed these productions.
-

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- Bridge inspectors are in the park and will be looking at the hole in the Fishing Bridge.
- You may have noticed the Geo-Tech drilling rig is in the park. They are working in the Norris to Golden Gate and Tower area, and then will be down at the Fishing Bridge water line project.

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NWS Zone Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park, WY

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY
Last Update: 759 AM MDT THU SEP 29 2011

Rest Of Today...Mostly sunny. Highs 63 to 69.

Tonight...Mostly clear. Lows 32 to 40.

Friday...Mostly sunny. Highs 66 to 74. Southwest winds around 15 mph late in the afternoon.

Spotlight – Yellowstone Association

The Yellowstone Association is a cooperating association and one of some 70 cooperating associations in the National Park System. YA has existed in Yellowstone since 1933, making it one of the longest serving of these nonprofit park partners (the Yosemite Fund is the oldest, having been established in 1923).

The Yellowstone Association's cash support for education in Yellowstone NP is derived primarily from sales of educational materials in bookstores, and also from the revenues generated by sales of memberships. YA support made possible the exhibits at Canyon VEC, a new geology film, a hydrothermal features film, over 100 outdoor exhibits, dozens of publications, web site feature development (web videos, podcasts), the Elk Rut VIP and the Upper Geyser Basin VIP Programs, and much more. Librarian positions at the Yellowstone Heritage and Resource Center are funded by YA, a legacy of the time when YA was known as the Yellowstone Library and Museum Association. YA funding has also supported the cataloging of museum collection objects, production of *Yellowstone Science*, and purchases of materials for the Research Library, Archives, and Collections. New exhibits for Albright Visitor Center and a new history film are among the future projects that YA will fund. YA's cash donations have been invaluable in supporting NPS priorities for public education and resource preservation stewardship through education.

The Yellowstone Association also operates the Yellowstone Association Institute (YAI). YAI offers in-depth, multiday courses about the natural and cultural resources of Yellowstone National Park. Most of these courses are taught by subject matter experts. Over the last decade, YAI has also offered private tours, which are led by YAI instructor/guides.

Here's the most recent example of YA's great initiatives:

<http://www.yellowstoneassociation.org/about/pressPop.aspx?id=86>

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IN THE NEWS

Decision postponed, again, on Yellowstone snowmobile rule

Los Angeles (CA) Times
Greenspace blog
Thursday, September 29, 2011

Once again the National Park Service has punted instead of issuing a final rule regarding the number of snowmobiles it will allow to operate each day in Yellowstone National Park.

Supt. Dan Wenk announced Thursday that the issue required additional analysis and that the park would implement an interim policy of allowing up to 318 commercially guided snowmobiles in the park each day, and 78 commercially guided snowcoaches.

Wenk said that when the winter use season starts Dec. 15, the same rules that have been in place the last two years will still apply.

He said a final "sustainable" rule is expected before the start of the 2012-13 season.

The debate over the use of snowmobiles in the nation's oldest park dates to the Clinton administration, when the use of the machines was to be phased out because of concerns about noise, air and sound pollution, as well as visitor and wildlife safety. That rule was reversed by President George W. Bush.

The issue of snowmobiles in the park has been studied for more than a decade, at a cost of more than \$10 million.

Yellowstone Winter Use plan same as last year

(THE BILLINGS GAZETTE)

http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/wyoming/article_4c477fb8-5653-5b97-80da-fca811474e86.html

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- - - - -

ACTING ASSIGNMENTS / OUT OF THE OFFICE

Dan Hottle is Acting Public Affairs Chief through today.

FIRE UPDATE

Due to unseasonably warm temperatures, low humidity, and gusty winds, the National Weather Service has issued a **RED FLAG WARNING** for the Gallatin National Forest including those areas adjacent to the park for both Friday and Saturday.

<http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/warnings.php?wfo=tfx&zone=MTZ123&pil=XXXRFWBYZ&productType=Red+Flag+Warning>

Click here for the latest Fire News Update:

<http://www.nps.gov/yell/parknews/11088i.htm>

GALLATIN FIRE UPDATE: The **Bull Fire** outside of the north boundary of the park on the Gallatin National Forest continues to grow north a few acres per day. The fire is over 1000 acres and the USFS is GPSing the perimeter today for an update on size. There are still two firefighters staying at the Hellroaring Cabin on a weekly rotation to monitor the fire.

The Specimen Ridge trail (USFS #84) is open to the public. Horse Creek (USFS #86) and Brundage Creek (USFS #93) trails are still closed. The Hellroaring trail (USFS #91) south of the cabin is still closed due to trail damage. On Oct. 10 a trail crew is going in to repair the damage and hopefully open the trail to public use that week. The Hellroaring trail (USFS #91) north of the cabin is still open since the fire is staying west of the trail.

The USFS been talking with the outfitters several times per week, and they still seem quite happy that all the right management decisions for the fire are being made.

CALENDAR ITEMS

No items today.

WEATHER FORECAST

<http://forecast.weather.gov/MapClick.php?zoneid=WYZ001&TextType=1>

NWS Zone Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park, WY

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 252 AM MDT FRI SEP 30 2011

Today...Sunny. Highs 67 to 75. Southwest winds around 15 mph late in the afternoon.

Tonight...Mostly clear in the evening then becoming partly cloudy. Lows 34 to 42. Southwest winds around 15 mph early in the evening.

Saturday...Breezy. Partly cloudy. Highs 66 to 74. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph in the afternoon.

FEEDBACK

From a real YNP@Work reader:

"Just a big THANK YOU for your hard work in publishing YNP news. It is my backup and reassurance that I have accessed all current information to post at XXX backcountry office. It is especially helpful when I have been gone a few days and need to catch up. Change is often resisted, but this is definitely a good change!"

Yes, we will post the negative feedback, too! We just haven't had much yet! ☺

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